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TTC chair Karen Stintz, along with city manager Joe Pennachetti, TTC CEO Andy Byford, Ontario Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli and Metrolinx CEO Bruce McCuaig, signed master agreements to build four LRTs in Toronto and implement the Presto card on the TTC. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Finally, transit is a done deal

Contract inked. After two years, four new lines, Presto card OK'd

Quoted

"Being able to bring higher-order transit into the suburbs will really start to create a united city and to bring transit to those areas that need it the most ... and will spur economic development in a way that right now those areas can't even begin to appreciate."
TTC chair Karen Stintz

The future may be murky at Queen's Park and city hall. But for the first time in more than two years, the path to Toronto's transit expansion is clear.

Two transit "master agreements" were signed Wednesday.

But it's the quiet deal committing Toronto to the provincial Presto fare card — not the one about LRTs, which grabbed headlines and bitterly divided city council — that will have the most immediate impact on commuters.

Putting Presto on the TTC was a condition of the province's $8.4 billion in funding for light rail on Eglinton, Sheppard East, the Scarborough RT and Finch West.

Officials from Metrolinx, the TTC and the city inked a long-awaited master agreement to build the LRTs, as well as the Presto deal.

"We have been able to cement a clear path forward based on sound transit-planning principles," Ontario Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Bob Chiarelli said at Metrolinx's downtown office on Wednesday.

"Our signatures bring to an end nearly four years of debate and delay and signal to Toronto commuters that we are finally getting on with the task they have long demanded, the expansion of Toronto's rapid-transit map," he said.

The second agreement commits the TTC to implementing the Presto fare card, an electronic-payment system that will ultimately eliminate tokens and tickets from Toronto's transit system.

Calling it a "seminal moment" for the TTC, CEO Andy Byford said the adaption of Presto is an important step in the "top-to-bottom modernization" of the transit system.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bosco players lost the Bowl, won the fight

Team coached by Rob Ford motivated by criticism PAGE 3

Girls just wanna have guns

Swedish toy catalogue plays it gender-neutral PAGE 14

Alicia Keys is feeling brand new

Singer talks about changes that led to fifth album PAGE 43

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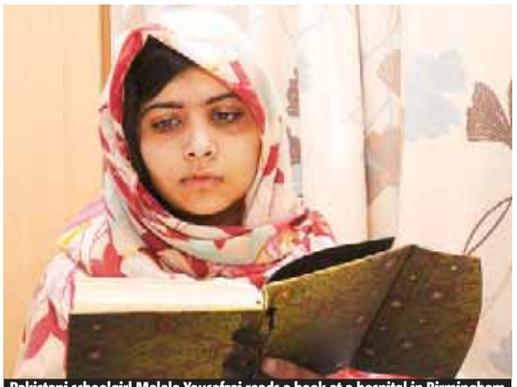
Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai reads a book at a hospital in Birmingham, England. GETTY IMAGES

Peace Prize. Council approves Nobel nomination for girl who defied Taliban

Toronto city council voted Wednesday to endorse the nomination of teen anti-Taliban activist Malala Yousafzai for a Nobel Peace Prize.

"I moved this motion to recognize Malala's bravery and the right of every child, regardless of gender, to go to school. I'm glad to have council's support and encourage everyone to join the city of Toronto and sign the petition on Change.org," said city councillor Paula Fletcher, who introduced the motion. "This is a powerful and unequivocal statement in favour of girls' access to education anywhere in the world."

Global petition

Over 240,000 people have signed a petition endorsing her nomination for a Peace Prize on Change.org.

On Oct. 9, Yousafzai was shot while riding the school bus, and she is now recovering in hospital. At age 11, she began writing a blog for the BBC, defying the Taliban, denouncing atrocities and the inability of girls who — like her — live in the Swat Valley to attend school.

Toronto's council is the first governing body to formally support this effort, according to Fletcher. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Don Bosco coach says players were motivated by criticism

Ignoring the noise. Former Rob Ford protege and current Eagles assistant coach credits team for dealing with adversity

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Not so long ago, Don Bosco Eagles assistant coach Andre Pokhodun was a student at the school where he now coaches, and Mayor Rob Ford changed the path he was on from heading to jail, to heading to college.

Student-athletes

"A lot people judge our kids from where they come from. But they're just kids ... They're just trying to graduate and go to post-secondary, go to university."
Andre Pokhodun, Eagles assistant coach

"If it wasn't for football, I would have been in jail. I was hanging around with the wrong crowd. Football and Rob (Ford) kept me off the street. It gave me something to do," he said.

Pokhodun is a student at Seneca College taking child and youth courses. "I want to do what Rob did for me, I want to give back to the community."

The mayor's team lost the Metro Bowl Tuesday night, but Pokhodun said the players learned from it.

"Just going to Rogers Centre, it opened their eyes that the sky's the limit for what you can accomplish in life. You can do anything you want if you work hard for it," he said.

Despite getting to play on the Argos' turf, the loss was painful.

"The kids are feeling it," he said. "But we as coaches told them after the game it's a learning experience. You can't win them all. When you do lose, you got to get back on your feet, raise your head high, take it to another level and make sure, next time, when you want to achieve something, you've got to work extra hard."

Pokhodun credits the team's success to learning how to deal with the pressure and criticism the team faced from the media and anonymous hateful comments on the Internet.

"The reason why we got to the Metro Bowl is there was a lot of criticism towards our kids and our community," he said. "The kids used that as motivation to prove to the whole city that the Don Bosco community is not a bunch of hooligans — they're just regular kids like anybody else out there."

Media attention

The coaches told the kids to deal with reporters who attended their practices and games — which began when Rob Ford was noticed skipping council meetings to coach — by thinking of them as "just people standing there ... just like anybody walking down the street walking their dog," said Pokhodun.

Rob Ford and the Don Bosco Eagles at Birchmount Stadium, Nov. 15. That's Eagle's assistant coach Andre Pokhodun in the red cap beside the mayor.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ford took afternoons off in football season: Skeds

Mayor Rob Ford took many afternoons off during the high school football season, his internal itineraries suggest.

The season began in early September. Between Sept. 1 and Oct. 26, Ford scheduled a grand total of one meeting or public appearance for later than 1:30 p.m. on a weekday: The Mayor's Ball for the Arts, at 5 p.m. on a Monday in October.

On most weekdays during the season, his itineraries listed nothing at all between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., a "private" appointment at 3:30 p.m. — at which time his Don Bosco Eagles practised in Etobicoke — and another "private" appointment at 5:30 p.m. The itineraries put him down for "calls/events" most weekdays at 7 p.m., but they gave no details about who he was calling or where he was going.

Ford, who said he will "fight tooth and nail" to keep his job after a judge declared his office vacant as of Dec. 10, has not told reporters how much time he has devoted to football as mayor. But in a July speech in which he tried to recruit coaches for other schools, he said coaching requires a major commitment: "Every day from 3 to 6 o'clock for September to October, and depending on how far the team goes in the playoffs, it could go to the end of November."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Not quitting

The Don Bosco Eagles lost Tuesday night in the Metro Bowl regional championship. Coach Rob Ford said after the game that he would coach again next year.

- "I'm not going to stop coaching. These kids did fantastic. I'm not going to turn my back on these kids," he said.

Lawyers learn lesson on lightening up

New York comedian Tommy Galan gives Toronto lawyers John Philpott and Zoya Trofimenko a lesson on how to lighten up in the courtroom in an office on Dundas Street West on Wednesday. Galan takes the lawyers through role-playing skits and teaches them how to lighten up through improv. The Law Society of Upper Canada has made it mandatory for lawyers to complete 12 hours of professional development a year. This workshop is the only option that involves funny walks and cult-like moaning. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City council vote

Proposed plastic bag ban scrapped

Toronto city council is scrapping its previous plan to ban the sale of plastic bags.

Councillors voted overwhelmingly against the bylaw Wednesday. The controversial ban would have kicked in Jan. 1.

The bylaw to ban the bags had faced opposition from several groups, including environmentalists, retailers and taxpayers' advocates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hungary case

Arrest made in axe attack

Toronto police arrested a man Tuesday for a Hungarian attempted murder charge after a security guard in Hungary was assaulted last year.

Police say a man was removed from a nightclub, returned with a group of accomplices and struck a guard's head with an axe.

Tivadar Sandor Kodrucz, 31, was arrested in the Bathurst St. and Ranee Ave. area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Real estate agent gets warning over non-disclosure

Anita Foss stands in front of her former home. She bought the house without being told a toddler had drowned there. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A real estate agent has received a warning from the industry's regulator for not disclosing the fact that a baby had accidentally drowned on the property.

It marks the second time in two weeks that a case has surfaced where the regulator has issued a warning against an agent for not telling a pending home buyer that their house was the scene of a tragedy.

Homeowner Anita Foss said Wednesday she was "appalled" the Real Estate Council of Ontario gave only a warning plus a requirement to take an education course after the agent sold her a home in Keswick without saying the house was the site of a "stigmatizing event."

"It amounts to no more than a slap on the wrist with complete disregard to the emotional and financial cost to me," said Foss, a 65-year-old retiree.

"I take this as a personal affront and consider it disrespectful not only to me but to the public as a whole, allowing this person to continue the business of selling property."

Stigmatizing events such as a murder, death or other tragedy could have an effect on a home's value because some consumers would have a psychological aversion to living there or want a discount. There is an obligation under the code of conduct of the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act for real estate professionals to disclose such information.

Foss said she will pursue her case in small claims court and seek payment for extra costs including fees in the house's sale and purchase of another home in Newmarket this summer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Double murder

In another recent case, a Bowmanville couple sued a real estate firm, an agent and a home's former owner for allegedly failing to reveal that the house was the scene of a gruesome double murder several years before they bought it.

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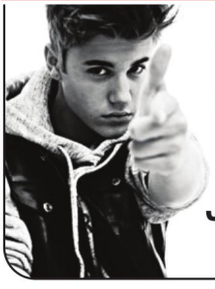

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Mississauga

Warrant issued for gas-and-dasher

Police in Mississauga have issued a Canada-wide warrant for a man charged in an alleged gas-and-dash incident in which an attendant died. Police say Abdullahi Mohamoud of Mississauga did not appear in court and was last known to be in the Edmonton area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salvation Army thefts

Person of interest in toy theft described

Umaish Ramrattan's life began to unravel following major health problems that led to financial trouble. What followed for the 61-year-old was multiple moves, a failing marriage and two police raids of properties allegedly connected to a wholesale company in his name. Ramrattan is a person of interest in a $2 million Salvation Army toy theft, according to police, after two caches of missing donations were recovered in warehouses in Brampton and North York.

Police say they're working to return over 150 skids of recently-recovered items in time for Christmas as an investigation continues.

Det.-Sgt. Jim Gotell said investigators are seeking the arrest of a suspect connected to the wholesale company Northern Sales Group, but have had difficulty locating him. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gates Foundation grant

U of T engineers set to reinvent toilet

A team of University of Toronto engineers are flush with cash as they continue working to build a better toilet.

The team — lead by Prof. Yu-Ling Cheng — has received a $2.2-million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue designing a waterless, hygienic toilet for the developing world.

The 15-month grant comes after the team — which also includes researchers from Western University and the University of Queensland — placed third in the Foundation's Reinventing the Toilet Challenge, to build a self-contained toilet that works without running water, sewer system or electricity and costs no more than five cents a day, per user.

Cheng's team is using a sand filter and UV disinfection to process liquid waste and a smoulder chamber — similar to a charcoal barbecue — to incinerate solid waste. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda. GETTY IMAGES

Businessman donates $150K to Danzig area

Newcomer to Canada. Philanthropist says he was 'shocked' upon hearing about the mass shooting this summer

Saying he was "heartbroken" by this summer's shooting on Danzig Street, a Toronto man has donated $150,000 of his own money toward initiatives aimed at helping residents in that community.

The money, donated by businessman Akanimo Udofia, 43, is set to be used for "resident-development" projects such as new computers and Internet access, after-school programs for young people, and scholarships.

Udofia, originally from Nigeria, came here with his family two years ago, and travels between Toronto, Nigeria and Europe running his company, which provides services to international oil firms.

The day he returned to Toronto from a vacation in Jamaica he was shocked to see news reports about the mass shooting on Danzig. The shooting at the Scarborough party killed Shyanne Charles and Joshua Yasay and wounded 23 other people on July 16.

"It broke my heart," he said, adding the incident "plagued" his mind and deeply bothered him.

Udofia's money is part of ongoing efforts by residents, city staff and officials, and community housing to help the community recover.

Through a series of community meetings since, residents have identified among the priorities: Helping children and youth excel academically and giving adult residents assistance reaching their career goals. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rollout

- The donation is being allotted over three years.
- The Scarborough Boys and Girls Club will serve as trustee over the money, and the city will monitor how the money is being used, as well as the outcomes.

Coun. Michael Thompson watches as Akanimo Udofia signs a cheque, in the City Hall members lounge, for $150,000 to go toward the Danzig community. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario. Economic status on the decline

Ontario's status as the economic engine of the country has been in steady decline for the better part of a decade — and most of the blame can be laid at the feet of the manufacturing sector — newly-released data suggests.

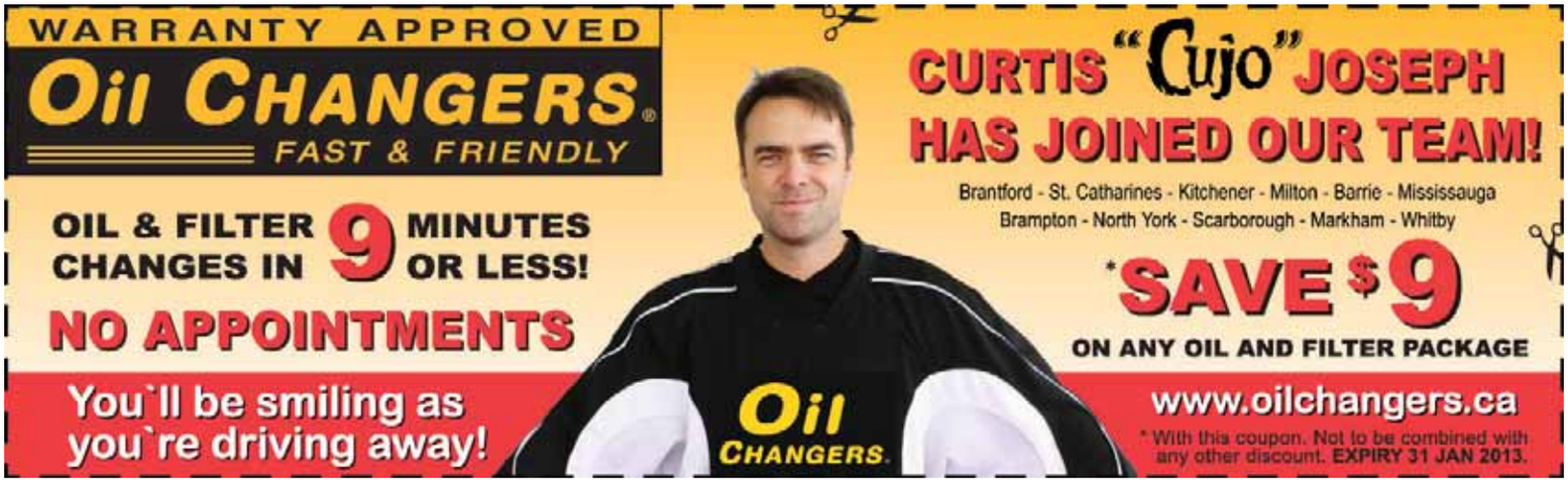
While opposition parties pointed to the Statistics Canada data as proof of poor economic stewardship under the governing Liberals, the economic development minister shot back with figures he says show manufacturing is on the rebound in the province.

StatsCan's latest payroll employment report, released Wednesday, shows Ontario lost about two-thirds of the 52,500 jobs shed nationally by employers in September.

But it is the agency's 10-year perspective on the province that is most revealing of Ontario's lagging performance.

It shows Ontario's share of Canada's employees has been slipping the past decade to 38 per cent, from 39.2 per cent in 2003. As of September, there were 5.8 million payroll workers in Ontario.

In both output and jobs, Alberta and Saskatchewan have been the key beneficiaries. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX MT (RO551D)/2013 Rio4 LX MT (RO541D) with a selling price of $16,083/$15,783 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable)] financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal $193/$190 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. *Every eligible contestant will win (subject to correctly answering a skill-testing question) an Instant Win prize consisting of a discount in an amount from $1,000 to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2012 or 2013 Kia vehicle. 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License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $26,383. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. ¹$3,400 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX AT (OP742D) from a participating dealer between November 1 – November 30, 2012. Cash savings is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. ≠Bi-weekly finance payment (on approved credit) for new 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT FWD (SP551D) based on a selling price of $24,178 is $132 with an APR of 1.99% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $6,730 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Offer includes $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, $750 loan savings, delivery and destination fees of $1,650, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ¹Loan savings for 2013 Sportage 2.4L LX MT FWD (SP551D) is $750 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit. Loan savings vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. Some conditions apply. §Lease offer available on approved credit on new 2013 Rio5 LX MT (RO551D)/2013 Rio4 LX MT (RO541D) is based on monthly payments of $190/$189 [includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455, $1,000 Everybody Wins savings, tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable) and $350 lease service fee] for 48 months at 0.9% with a $0 down payment/equivalent trade, security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $9,100/$9,072 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $7,333/$7,061. Lease has 16,000 km/year allowance and $0.12/km for excess kilometres (other packages available). License, insurance, applicable taxes and registration fees are extra. Retailer may lease for less. See dealer for full details. ^Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D)/2013 Sportage 2.0T SX with Navigation (SP759D)/2013 Rio4 SX with Navigation AT (RO749D) is $35,550/$39,145/$23,450 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650/$1,455, environmental fee and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $399), tire recycling and filter charges of $34, OMVIC fee and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. Available at participating dealers. The First Time Vehicle Buyer Program offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance a select new 2012/2013 Rio 4 door, 2012/2013 Rio 5 door, 2012/2013 Forte Sedan, 2012/2013 Forte5, 2012/2013 Forte Koup, or 2012/2013 Soul. 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Get ready for teacher strikes, parents warned

Sam Hammond, president of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario.
AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parents will get three days' notice to arrange child care in December now that the province's elementary teachers will be going out on strike, ramping up their conflict with the provincial government.

Ontario's elementary teachers plan to hold strikes next month, saying parents at affected schools will be given 72 hours notice.

A day after two high school teacher unions voted down tentative deals that could have been the start of labour peace in the province's schools, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario ramped up their fight with the government, vowing members will walk off the job.

Some grade school teachers are already in a work-to-rule position, but by December all elementary teacher union locals will be in strike position.

Meanwhile, earlier Wednesday, Premier Dalton McGuinty said he's not worried that two high school unions rejected contract offers with Liberal leadership candidates taking a softer stand on his controversial teacher wage freeze law.

"I'm not going to try to divine what it is that might motivate teachers in this regard," he said Wednesday in Windsor, a day after York and Niagara Region public high school teachers turned thumbs down on deals already approved by Education Minister Laurel Broten.

"There are, of course, many other agreements we hope to have signed."

The votes, which came as high school teachers at the Upper Grand District School Board in the Guelph area did approve a contract the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation negotiated, are seen as a blow to the minority Liberal government's hopes for labour peace in schools.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"It is unfortunate that we have been placed in the position of having to strike by Education Minister Laurel Broten, but we will provide parents with ample notice to ensure the safety of students"

Sam Hammond, union president

Opioids, smoking down in Ontario

Addictions survey.
CAMH says more pot smokers driving under influence, concerns over binge drinking

Smoking rates are levelling off in Ontario while more pot smokers are driving after lighting up, according to the latest survey by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

There are reasons for both optimism and concern in the survey, taken throughout 2011, of 3,039 adults 18 or older from across Ontario. The survey has been undertaken annually since 1999.

"Most of us, based on these findings, do not have substance related issues or aren't dealing with serious mental health concerns. That's a positive finding," said Dr. Robert Mann, senior scientist and lead researcher at the centre.

Among the survey results, 81 per cent of Ontario residents reported drinking alcohol in the previous year, though the majority would not be considered excessive drinkers.

Within those numbers, the survey found that among women, 6 per cent reported drinking daily, compared to 3 per cent in 1998. The number of women drinking "in ways that were hazardous or harmful" rose to 8 per cent from 5 per cent in 1998.

Prescription medication

- **Distress.** 17 per cent of adults surveyed reported living with "elevated psychological distress," with the highest rates among people aged 18 to 29.
- **Anxiety.** 7 per cent use anxiety medication and 7 per cent take medication for depression. The highest use is in the 40 to 49 age group.

Smoking rates across the province, which have been declining steadily in recent years, have levelled off to about 15 per cent, representing an estimated 1.4 million Ontario residents.

Non-medicinal use of opioids — such as Oxycodone — dropped from 8 per cent in 2010 to 4 per cent in 2011.

"Just because they're prescription drugs, it doesn't mean they're not dangerous. They're very strong, addictive drugs. So I think this is a very positive finding to see the non-medical use of these drugs has declined by 50 per cent over the course of a year," Mann said.

At a time when a solid majority of Canadians — 66 per cent — support legalizing or decriminalizing marijuana use, the number of people surveyed aged 18 to 29 who reported driving within an hour of smoking marijuana was 9 per cent, compared to 6 per cent of those who reported driving after having two or more alcoholic drinks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

REWIND your VCR, nation

Johnny Depp and Cher look-a-likes help launch Canada's newest speciality channel REWIND, featuring movies from the '70s, '80s and '90s, at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto on Wednesday. The channel, which starts with a free 60-day preview Dec. 1 on major cable carriers, is holding National REWIND Your VCR Day Jan. 5, collecting old VCRs for charity. THE CANADIAN PRESS/REWIND

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Tory pollster puts Harper on the spot

Misinformation. Firm censured for conducting a dishonest campaign against Liberal MP

Liberals are demanding an apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper over the conduct of a Tory pollster.

Campaign Research was censured for conducting a misinformation campaign against MP Irwin Cotler.

An investigation by the market research industry's watchdog concluded Wednesday that the actions of Campaign Research Inc. brought the industry into disrepute.

"The actions of Campaign Research have likely caused the Canadian public to lose confidence in marketing research and have tarnished the image of the marketing research profession," says a ruling by the three-member panel of the Market Research and Intelligence Association.

The panel was struck after the association received seven complaints of professional misconduct against Campaign Research.

The complaints related to a voter-identification poll the company conducted last autumn on behalf of the federal Conservative party in Cotler's Montreal riding.

The company's callers suggested to constituents — falsely — that Cotler either had or was about to quit as the Liberal MP for Mount Royal.

Cotler said the Conservatives must now take responsibility for the conduct of their pollster.

"I think they should be severing their ties with the firm that undertook these acts on their behalf," he said.

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae said: "This didn't happen by accident. It happened because the Conservative party asked this organization to conduct such a poll."

"Campaign Research accepts the conclusions and decision of the MRIA," the company's general counsel, Aaron Wudrick, said in an email.

"We remain proud gold seal members of the association and endeavour to continue our affiliation with the MRIA by striving to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rebuke

The Market Research and Intelligence Association is a voluntary body with limited powers.

- **The options.** It can suspend or expel members who violate its code of conduct.
- **The result.** It settled on censuring Campaign Research, which amounts to a public rebuke.

Quoted

"The effort to dislodge Mr. Cotler was, to use a technical term, disgusting. It was beyond any standard we've ever known."

Bob Rae, interim Liberal leader.

President and prime minister — a pair of powerful partners

Trading partners Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexico's president-elect Enrique Pena Nieto hold a news conference on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. Pena Nieto was making a whirlwind visit just three days before being sworn in. After travelling to Washington D.C. to meet with U.S. President Barack Obama, Pena Nieto wanted to encourage Canadian investment in his country's state-run oil company. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surgical mesh. Women in agony ask Sask. to pay

One woman has not been able to sit down for seven months.

Another says she feels like she has steel wool inside her.

A third fears she might not have more children.

Ruth Olson, Marika English and Stephanie Brad all say they're in severe agony because of complications from surgical mesh and they're begging the province of Saskatchewan to pay for its complete removal.

"We are angry, we are sick and we are in pain," English said Wednesday at the Saskatchewan legislature.

The women had surgical mesh inserted through their vaginas to help with urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse.

But the women say their meshes have failed and are poking into other organs.

They said the Saskatchewan health ministry has turned down their requests for funding out-of-country medical coverage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Garneau. Spaceman aims to send the PM into orbit

Former astronaut Marc Garneau joined the federal Liberal leadership race Wednesday, touting himself as the party's best chance to defeat Stephen Harper.

Garneau cast himself as the candidate with the most leadership experience and as someone who would make diversifying the Canadian economy a top priority.

The former president of the Canadian Space Agency joins a crowded field that includes fellow Montreal MP Justin Trudeau, the eldest son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau.

Garneau is expected to give Trudeau, the presumptive front-runner, one of his biggest tests in the race for the top Liberal job.

Trudeau welcomed Garneau's entry into the race. "He's a man of ideas and strength and he is going to be an important player … in the rebuilding of the Liberal party," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Status vote. UN bid the last chance to secure two-state solution, Palestinians say

A bid for UN recognition of a state of Palestine is a last-ditch attempt to rescue troubled Mideast peace efforts, a Palestinian spokeswoman said Wednesday, rejecting Israel's charge that it is an attempt to bypass negotiations.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, urged the U.S. to drop its opposition to the bid, dismissing Washington's stance as "pathetic" and harmful to American interests in the region. The Palestinians have come under intense pressure from the U.S., Britain and others to modify the bid but "have not succumbed," she said.

On Thursday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas plans to ask the UN General Assembly to recognize Palestine in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem; areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but still controls most access.

The Palestinians expect some two-thirds of the General Assembly's 193 members will accept Palestine as a nonmember observer state. The U.S., Israel, Canada and a few others are opposed.

The vote will not change the situation on the ground, yet the Palestinians still say it is significant.

Abbas has said UN recognition is not meant to replace negotiations with Israel, but to improve Palestinian leverage and secure the pre-1967 war frontiers as the baseline for future border talks — an idea Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlements

Abbas has said he will not negotiate as long as Israel keeps expanding settlements on war-won land.

- **West Bank.** Half a million Israelis now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, blurring the 1967 lines.
- **Netanyahu.** Beyond a 10-month partial halt in 2009, Netanyahu has refused to freeze construction in settlements.

Unhappy with Harper

Palestinians hold pictures of Prime Minister Stephen Harper superimposed with a face of a dog during a protest in front of the Canadian representative offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Wednesday, following Harper's remarks about the Palestinian UN bid for an observer state status. Canada affirmed its steadfast opposition to Thursday's vote at the United Nations to confer statehood on Palestine, saying it would not support any "shortcuts" to peace with Israel. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza Strip

Militant groups thank Iran

Residents of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday plastered large billboards in key locations thanking Iran for its help during a recent eight-day battle against Israel.

The posters reflected the strong ties between Iran and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad militant groups in Gaza. Israel considers Iran to be its most dangerous enemy, citing Iran's support for the militants and its suspect nuclear program.

During the fighting, Gaza militant groups fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, including Iranian-made "Fajr" missiles reaching as far as Tel Aviv and the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Israel has long accused Iran of funneling weapons into the Gaza Strip, but only recently have the militant groups openly acknowledged the origins of their arsenal.

The posters show the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, surrounded by Iranian and Palestinian flags, two hands in a handshake with the message, "Thanks and Gratitude to Iran." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Swedish company TOP-TOY's newly released gender-neutral catalogue. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toy maker goes gender-neutral

Guns and dolls.
Swedish company recoils after drawing criticism for gender roles in its catalogue

Dolls for Billy, toy guns for Sally? One of Sweden's largest toy chains has caused a stir by publishing a gender-neutral catalogue showing girls playing with toys typically perceived as those for boys and vice versa.

TOP-TOY released its gender-neutral Christmas catalogue this week showing a girl brandishing a toy gun and a boy playing with a doll, after the company was previously chastised for being too conservative in encouraging outdated gender roles in its marketing material.

In 2008, the retailer was reprimanded by Swedish Advertising Ombudsman after customers complained about catalogues that featured girls dressed as princesses and boys dressed as superheroes. The company decided to try a more gender-neutral approach to the catalogues and receive training from the Ombudsman's office.

Earlier this year, Sweden introduced a new gender-neutral pronoun — 'hen' — to replace he and she in its National Encyclopedia.

And since 2008, the government has spent millions on promoting gender equality in school, including introduction of laws and regulations that ensure that teachers are actively working to reverse gender stereotypes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Who says you can't bring out the masculine side of a girl ..."
Shamie Ramgoolam, co-owner of Silly Goose Kids in Toronto responding to TOP-TOY's new marketing strategy

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Pimping charges

Court delays ruling on Strauss-Kahn

A French court on Wednesday pushed back a ruling on whether to drop aggravated pimping charges against Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Three Appeals Court judges in the northern city of Douai set a new date of Dec. 19 to decide the demand by the former IMF chief to annul the charges linking him to a suspected prostitution ring run out of a luxury hotel in Lille.

The economist admits attending "libertine" gatherings but denies knowing that some women present were paid.

If the judges decide to dismiss the aggravated pimping charges, Strauss-Kahn would become an "assisting witness" in the case, meaning that if investigators discovered new elements implicating him he could face preliminary charges once again.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polygamist property

Texas trying to seize Jeffs' ranch

Texas wants to take ownership of Warren Jeffs' polygamist ranch where the convicted sect leader and his followers sexually assaulted children, state prosecutors said Wednesday.

The Texas attorney general's office filed a seizure warrant on Wednesday. A judge will determine whether the state can take control of the 1,600-acre property owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jeffs was convicted last year of sexually assaulting two of his underage brides. Prosecutors used DNA evidence to show he fathered a child with a 15-year-old girl prosecutors say he took as one of his spiritual wives.

Jeffs is serving life in prison in Texas but has continued to try and continue to lead his church while serving his sentence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea moves to stem digital addiction

Kindergarten. Kids from age 3 to 5 will be taught to protect themselves from overusing digital gadgets and Internet

In South Korea, where the government provides counselling programs and psychological treatment for about two million people who cannot wean themselves from playing online computer games, youngsters have previously not been considered as potential addicts.

But now the government is concerned enough to make it mandatory for children as young as three to be schooled in controlling their device and Internet use.

Starting next year, South Korean children from age three to five will learn at kindergartens how to control their exposure to digital devices and the danger of staying online for long hours. The Ministry of Public Administration and Security is revising laws so that teaching the danger of Internet addiction becomes mandatory from pre-school institutions to high schools.

Child addicts

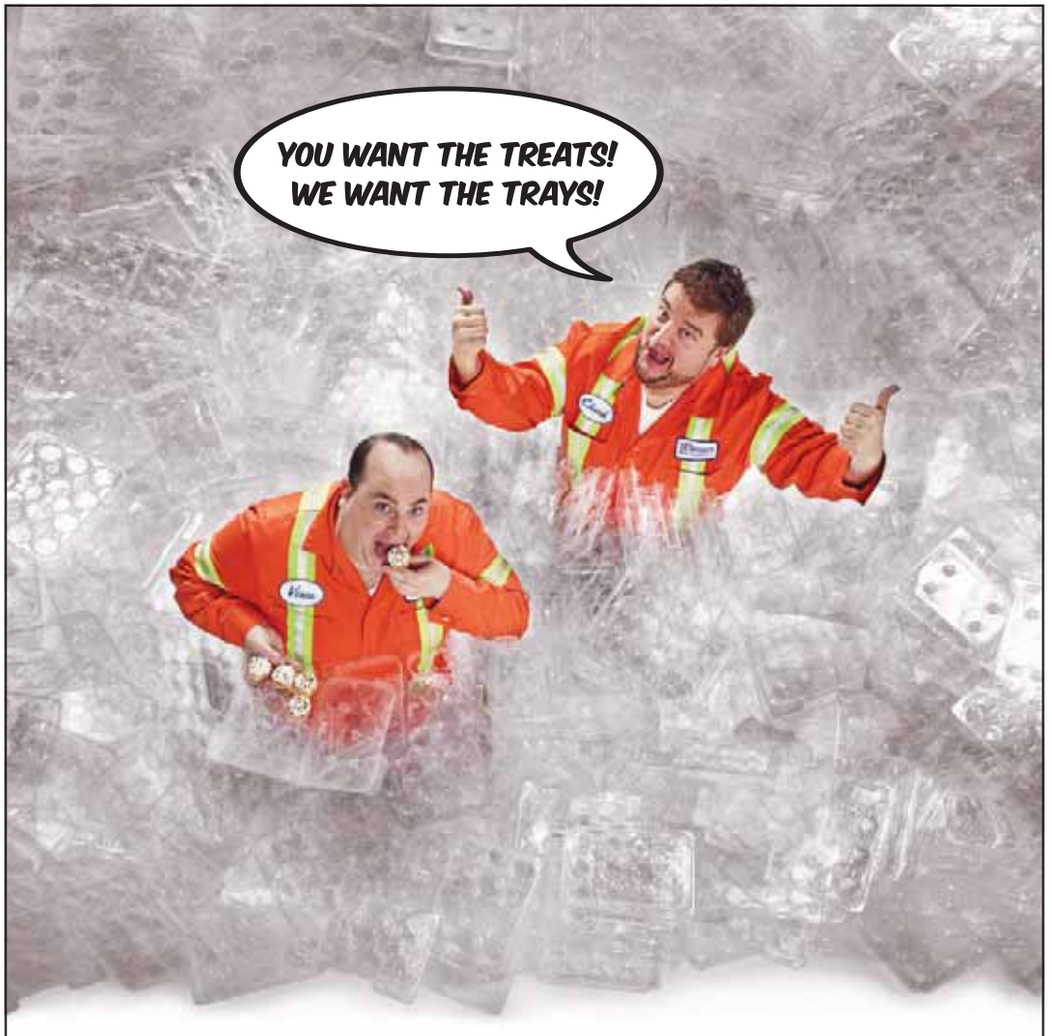
- The National Information Society Agency estimates 160,000 South Korean children between age five and nine are addicted to the Internet either through smartphones, tablet computers or personal computers.
- Such children appear animated when using gadgets but distracted and nervous when they are cut off from the devices and will forgo eating or going to the toilet so they can continue playing online, according to the agency.

New mobile devices that instantly respond to a touch of a finger seem to make children more restless than before and lack empathy, said Kim Jun-hee, a kindergarten teacher who conducted an eight-month study on Internet safety and addiction education for pre-school children. She said educating children against digital and web addiction should start early because smartphones are their new toys.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A subway rider plays a game on a smartphone in Seoul, South Korea. The government estimated 2.55 million people across South Korea are addicted to smartphones, using the devices for eight hours a day or more.

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Fraud. Afghanistan's largest bank loses $861M in Ponzi scheme: Review

Hundreds of millions of dollars from Kabul Bank were spirited out of Afghanistan — some smuggled in airline food trays — according to an independent review released on Wednesday about a massive fraud that led to the collapse of the nation's largest financial institution.

The report, financed by international donors, offers new details about how the men at Kabul Bank got rich off $861 million in fraudulent loans in what the International Monetary Fund has called a Ponzi scheme that used customer deposits and operated under nascent banking oversight in the war-torn country.

Loans were made, but rarely repaid. Borrowers took out loans to pay back loans. Company documents and financial statements were fabricated. The bank's credit department used more than 100 corporate stamps for fake companies to make documents look authentic. The bank operated some of its branches without a permit.

"Every citizen in Afghanistan will bear the cost," the report said.

Drago Kos, chairman of the committee that wrote the report, speaks in Kabul on Wednesday. MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The report said $861 million, or 92 per cent of Kabul Bank's loan book, went to 19 individuals and companies. Among them are key bank shareholders, including Sherkhan Farnood, the former bank chairman and a world-class poker player, former CEO Khalilullah Ferozi and the brothers of President Hamid Karzai and first Vice-President Mohammad Qasim Fahim. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terrorism. Bomber foiled by text message gets 15 years from Russian court

A man who plotted to cause carnage in Moscow's iconic Red Square — thwarted by a spam phone message that prematurely detonated a bomb — was sentenced Wednesday to 15 years in jail.

Ilyas Saidov, a member of an underground Islamist group, brought explosives-laden belts disguised as heaters for two female suicide bombers on a bus from his native Dagestan.

But just hours before they were to detonate the bombs on New Year's Eve 2010, a belt attached to a cellphone exploded after the detonator was activated by a spam message, killing one of the women and prompting the arrest of the other. She was sentenced to 10 years in jail in May.

The Moscow City Court also found Saidov guilty of gunning down two police officers and three civilians in Dagestan.

Since 2000, at least two-dozen female suicide bombers, often called "black widows" in Russia, have carried out terrorist attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto man sentenced to death in Egypt over film

Trial in absentia. Canadian convicted of insulting Islam over alleged involvement with anti-Muslim film

Full denial

"Now, as a Canadian, I'm convicted for a crime I didn't do."

Nader Fawzy, denying any involvement with the Innocence of Muslims

A Canadian who was sentenced to death in absentia Wednesday in Cairo over an anti-Islam movie that caused deadly riots in parts of the Muslim world said he's terrified of being kidnapped and spirited to Egypt.

In an interview with The Canadian Press, Nader Fawzy denied any involvement in the Innocence of Muslims, saying the Egyptian government has long been out to get him because of his Coptic Christian activism.

"Of course I'm worried about this death penalty," said Fawzy, a jewelry-store manager and president of an international Coptic-rights organization. He came to Canada in 2002 from Sweden. He lost his Egyptian citizenship when he became a Swedish citizen in 1992, he said.

"Who will give me guarantees that the Egyptian government will not try to kidnap me to take me to Egypt?"

Fawzy, 53, of Toronto was one of seven Egyptian Coptic Christians convicted and sentenced to death Wednesday along with a Florida pastor for the low-budget movie.

Fawzy said he planned to file a lawsuit against the Egyptian government in Canada for what he said was a wrongful prosecution.

"Let them give me one (piece of evidence) that I had anything to do with that."

Egyptian authorities have had it in for him since 2007, when he published a book on anti-Coptic sentiment in Egypt called The Persecuted. He also filed a lawsuit against the Cairo government for riots in 2000 that left 23 Copts dead.

The court found all the accused guilty of harming national unity, insulting and publicly attacking Islam and spreading false information, the official Egyptian news agency said.

All of those sentenced live outside Egypt. Also convicted were Mark Basseley Youssef, the man behind the movie, and Florida pastor Terry Jones, who became well-known two years ago when he publicly burned copies of the Muslim holy book. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Resisting a return to absolute rule in Egypt

Egyptian protesters clash with security forces near Tahrir Square, in Cairo, Egypt, on Wednesday. In an escalation of the tug-of-war between Egypt's president and the powerful judiciary, judges in the country's top courts went on strike Wednesday to protest Mohammed Morsi's seizure of near absolute powers, while Islamists rushed to complete a new constitution, the issue at the heart of the dispute. KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Church to try again on female bishops

Church of England. Though a vote failed to pass, lawmakers considering action

The Church of England has taken a tentative step toward trying again to get its governing General Synod to approve female bishops.

The church said Wednesday the Archbishops' Council agreed this week that the issue needed to be resolved "as a matter of urgency" and should be restarted when the General Synod next meets in July.

A brief statement from the 19-member council did not indicate when another vote could be taken. The council recommended that all the bishops, at their meeting next month, "put in place a clear process for discussions in the new year with a view to bringing legislative proposals before the Synod in July."

Church legislation authorizing female bishops failed last week when laity in the General Synod failed to muster the necessary two-thirds majority, falling just six votes short.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has expressed his disappointment and said it was a matter for the church to resolve, but some lawmakers have suggested forcing the issue by abolishing the church's exemption from the law against gender discrimination.

Much of the debate in the General Synod was about provisions for church members who believe only men can be priests and bishops, and do not want to be supervised by a female bishop. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secular push

"Get on with it."
Prime Minister David Cameron

Rev. Kat Campion-Spall, an assistant curate at St Mary's Church, London, with her seven-week old daughter. The Church of England took another tentative step Wednesday toward trying to approve female bishops. YUI MOK/GETTY IMAGES

Germany

Iranian Embassy targeted in Berlin

Police say a group of assailants pelted the Iranian Embassy in Berlin with stones and paint and pulled down an Iranian flag — prompting Germany's foreign minister to express regret to his counterpart in Tehran.

Berlin police said about 30 were involved in the incident on Wednesday afternoon. The assailants didn't enter the building and authorities were able to detain 10 of them. There was no immediate information on their possible motives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relax, it's coherent

Driver alleges FedEx fired him over accent

A Utah truck driver alleges FedEx fired him because of his Russian accent, even though he offered to appear before corporate higher-ups to demonstrate his English.

Ismail Aliyev has filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the shipping company and the long-haul contractor that employed him and was ordered to do the firing.

"He has an accent. But it's very understandable," Robert H. Wilde, Aliyev's lawyer, said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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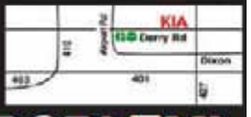

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With help from 2nd Lt. Chelsea Adams, Pfc. Nikki Rogers puts on her new body armour, the Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest, Wednesday morning at Fort Stewart, Ga. The soldiers are part of a Female Engagement Team and will wear the new armour in combat when they deploy within the coming weeks. COREY DICKSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mississauga man charged with fake witchcraft healing

One wealthy warlock?
Police say he tricked a woman out of $14,000 to remove an evil curse

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

Gustavo Valencia Gomes CONTRIBUTED

Police charged a Mississauga man with pretending to practise witchcraft Tuesday, a charge that's controversial in the community of practising pagans but is also laid surprisingly often in Ontario.

Police allege Gustavo Valencia Gomes, publisher of Spanish-language newspaper el Negocio Redondo, advertised his services as a healer and then convinced a woman that she and her family were cursed and that he could remove it for a price. She paid $14,000 before police arrested him, officers said.

It's a common scam, said Ariana L'Heureux, a self-described witch who works at The Occult Shop on Bathurst Street. The shop offers tarot-card readings for a small fee.

The law separates true believers, like L'Heureux, from imposters who "pretend to be something they're not for monetary gain."

Brendan Myers, a pagan and philosophy professor at the Cégep Heritage College, worries that the law could be used against law-abiding pagans. There are no equivalent laws for charlatans that abuse other faiths, he said.

On the other hand, he also worries the witchcraft charge could get fraudsters off the hook.

"What if someday a conman uses these precedents to say what he did was religion and therefore it should be protected?"

Accused

6

Number of Ontarians charged with pretending to practise witchcraft since 1999, four of them in the last four years

The boss and the bean

Britain's Charles, Prince of Wales, left, meets entertainer Rowan Atkinson at the Prince's Trust Comedy Gala 2012 at the Royal Albert Hall in central London on Wednesday.

DOMINIC LIPINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puppy love

Germany affirms bestiality is bad

A German lawmaker says Parliament is close to passing a law explicitly banning bestiality after animal-rights groups and tabloid newspapers pushed for existing legislation to be clarified.

Berlin tabloid BZ started the debate in October, featuring a front-page photo of a man holding his dog with the headline, "We call it sodomy, he calls it love."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian flag

Quebecers still love the Leaf

A new poll suggests that while the Parti Quebecois seeks to remove the Canadian flag from the provincial legislature, two-thirds of Quebecers view the Maple Leaf as a source of pride.

The survey showed only 22 per cent said it was not very important, and just 10 per cent said it was not important at all.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Assault charge

Professional MMA fighter charged

Shane Michael Wilson
COURTESY VICTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Victoria man with an extensive professional fighting resume has been arrested on assault charges for the second time in as many years.

Shane Michael Wilson, 29, has been charged with assault causing bodily harm following an incident at a McDonald's restaurant Sunday morning. He is described by police as a "well-known criminal" with a history of violence. The victim, a 22-year-old Saanich man, was taken to hospital and later released. Known in mixed martial arts circles as "The Warrior," Wilson has significant experience as a professional fighter.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO VICTORIA

Firing back

CEO shoots down allegations

Former Vancouver Olympics CEO John Furlong says the reporter behind an article that accused him of abusing students 40 years ago while teaching in northern British Columbia wrote the story as part of a malicious campaign to discredit him.

Furlong, whose role at the top of the 2010 Olympic organizing committee saw him inducted as a member of the Order of Canada, filed a statement of claim this week alleging his reputation has been irreparably harmed by the Georgia Straight newspaper, reporter Laura Robinson, publisher Daniel McLeod and editor Charlie Smith.The weekly newspaper published a story Sept. 27 that quoted eight former students who alleged Furlong was physically and verbally abusive while he was a volunteer teacher in northern B.C. in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

None of it is true, Furlong's lawyers write in their statement of claim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Got a cold? Tell your friends on Facebook

It may help them.
New research shows social media could help prevent the spread of diseases

Could a Facebook posting from just the right person save you from a nasty cold come wintertime? Can tweeting government officials or principals prevent the flu from spreading through schools or the community?

That's what researchers at Kansas State University, in Manhattan, K.S., hope to find out as they examine the role of social media — with its instant and comprehensive messaging capabilities — and our health.

The team's research shows epidemics can be controlled if populations take immediate preventive behaviour.

Now, through interviews and information collected from college students (who say they get much of their information from Facebook), they're hearing the same individuals would be willing to get flu shots, wash their hands or sneeze into their elbow if alerted through social media, knowing they'd be helping reduce the spread of disease.

But researchers still need to determine what body would be best to send out alerts, warnings and accompanying precautions on social media.

"We're discussing ... whether it would be better to receive recommendations or advice from someone people know and trust personally, … or an authority on the subject," says Dr. Caterina Scoglio, an associate professor at the university and one of the researchers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Human contact

One way to prevent diseases is to avoid people.

- Students say they want to control spread of disease, but they aren't ready to cut themselves off from family and friends.

Lindsay Lohan may want to Tweet when she's sick, if only to keep paparazzi at bay. Researchers say people would be willing to take health precautions if they were alerted through social media. DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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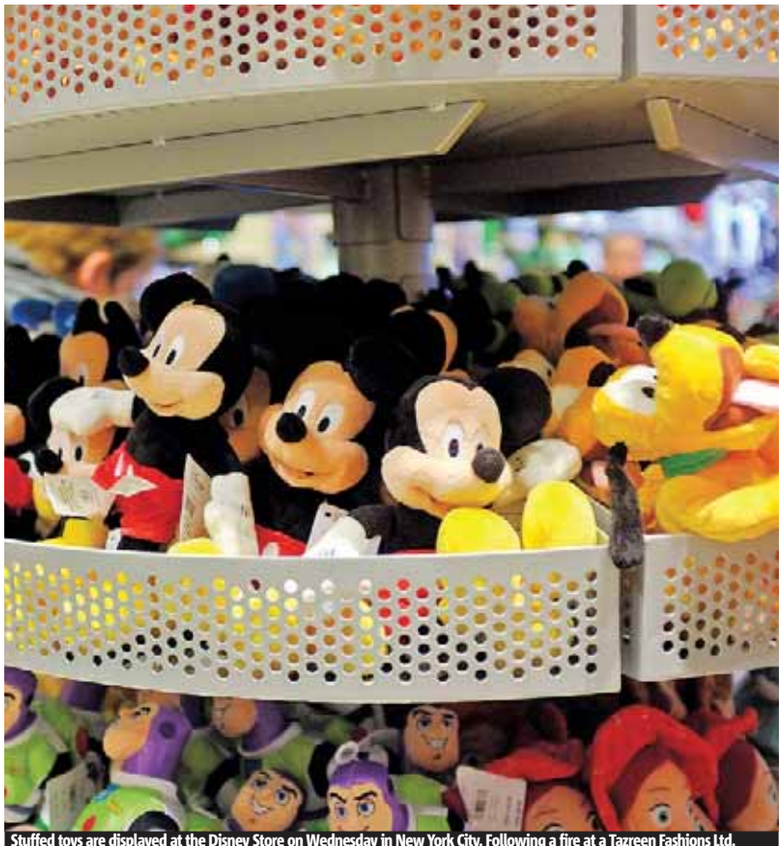

Stuffed toys are displayed at the Disney Store on Wednesday in New York City. Following a fire at a Tazreen Fashions Ltd. factory in Bangladesh in which 112 workers were killed on Nov. 24, renewed scrutiny has been brought upon Western clothing companies and their responsibility for working conditions at their overseas operations. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Big U.S. retailers did business with factory where fire killed 112

Bangladesh. Products from Wal-Mart, Sears, Disney and Sean Jean found among rubble

A hooded Mickey Mouse sweatshirt from Disney. Children's shorts with Wal-Mart's Faded Glory label. Clothes with hip-hop star Sean Combs' ENYCE tag.

The garment factory in Bangladesh where 112 people were killed in a fire over the weekend was used by a host of major U.S. and European retailers, an Associated Press reporter discovered Wednesday from clothes and account books left amid the blackened tables and melted sewing machines at Tazreen Fashions Ltd.

Wal-Mart had been aware of safety problems at the factory and said it had decided well before the blaze to stop doing business with it. But it said a supplier had continued to use Tazreen without authorization.

Quoted

"The labels are legally protected. But there are no similar laws to protect ... the worker."

Charles Kernaghan, director of the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights

Sears, likewise, said its merchandise was being produced there without its approval through a vendor, which has since been fired. The Walt Disney Co. said its records indicate that none of its licensees have been permitted to make Disney-brand products at the factory for at least a year. Combs' Sean Jean Enterprises did not return calls for comment.

The tragedy at the beginning of the holiday season is putting a spotlight on dangerous workplace conditions around the world, with no clear answers to how consumers should react or who is ultimately responsible, given the way many major retailers rely on a long and complex chain of manufacturers and middlemen to keep their shelves stocked.

Labour activists have long contended that retailers in the West bear a responsibility to make sure the overseas factories that manufacture their products are safe. They seized on the blaze — the deadliest in Bangladesh's nearly 35-year history of exporting clothing — to argue that retailers must insist on more stringent fire standards.

Bangladesh's fast-growing garment industry — second only to China's in exports — has long provided jobs and revenue for the desperately poor country while turning out the low-priced products shoppers in the U.S. and other countries have come to enjoy.

On Wednesday, police arrested three factory officials suspected of locking in the workers who died in Saturday's blaze on the outskirts of Dhaka. Police Chief Habibur Rahman said the three will be questioned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toronto parents say 2 schools are crowded, unsafe

Budget crunch. While parents say provincial funding freeze has led to stalled projects, Grits say that's not the case

Parents say two Toronto schools are overcrowded and the governing Liberals are stalling projects that would make more room.

They say Swansea and Keele public schools are up over 30 per cent capacity, with kids crammed into portables with inadequate access to washrooms and gyms.

They say the Toronto District School Board approved school additions, but they're in jeopardy because the government put a hold on capital projects.

Robin Pilkey of the Swansea parent council says she fears the projects won't be completed in time for the roll-out of full-day kindergarten for four- and five-year-olds.

She says she expects the schools to be unsafe, overcrowded, unsanitary and no place for children to learn.

The government has frozen new capital money to the school board until it can show that there won't be any cost overruns of new projects.

But Education Minister Laurel Broten says that doesn't include renovations and retrofits to roll out full-day kindergarten.

Swansea, Runnymede and Keele public schools have been allocated $4 million to implement the program, she said.

The other projects the parents discussed — the ones that don't relate to full-day kindergarten — didn't have previous approvals to move ahead, she said.

"So the suggestion that they're being held up because of the current freeze is not accurate," Broten said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Money

Things tightened up after a finding showed renovations would go well over budget.

- **Freeze.** The government froze the board's funding for new capital projects after it was revealed that a $21.7 million retrofit of a downtown school could be up to $11 million more.

Carney celebrates Canada's coins

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney holds up a gold coin Wednesday in Ottawa as he takes part in a photo op in the Royal Canadian Mint's gold refinery vault to promote the public sale of rare Canadian gold coins previously stored at the Bank of Canada since 1935. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Play fight'

Sask. firefighters found not guilty of assaulting police

Three Saskatoon firefighters have been found not guilty of assaulting and obstructing two police officers. Supporters applauded when the judge read out the verdict. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2012

Canada scores high in World Justice Project

Canada scored well above average in 2012 when it came to the rule of law, according to an annual survey of 97 countries conducted by the World Justice Project. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Suncor's bid to randomly test workers dismissed

Alberta's top court has dismissed an appeal by Suncor Energy over its plan to randomly test thousands of its oilsands workers for drugs and alcohol. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton tells Toronto to butt out on elephant

Stuck. Lucy's fate has been debated in Edmonton for years, but city insists her old age won't allow her to travel south

Edmonton's Mayor Stephen Mandel said Lucy the elephant's future is in the hands of Edmonton city council and Toronto city council should butt out.

Toronto city council passed a resolution Tuesday to move three elephants from its city's zoo to a California animal sanctuary before the end of the year. They also called on Edmonton to do the same with Lucy.

Mandel said Edmonton city council takes the issue very seriously and has informed discussion and debate on Lucy. He said the city isn't taking a philosophical position on the issue, but it listening to veterinary experts, who have said Lucy's health would be in danger if she is moved.

None of your business, T.O.

"I think that it is very disrespectful of other cities to pass resolutions about what Edmonton should and shouldn't do."

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel
speaking about Toronto city council's call for Edmonton to move Lucy the elephant.

"We have been told repeatedly, repeatedly, that this particular wonderful addition to our city would die if we shipped her out," said Mandel. "We are only concerned about Lucy's health."

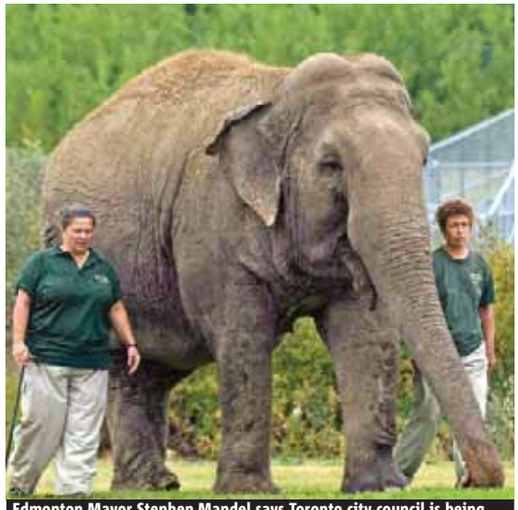
Lucy is a 37-year old Asian elephant at the Edmonton Valley Zoo and animal rights groups have called on the city to move her to a warmer climate.

Tove Reece, the executive director of the Voice for Animals Humane Society, a group that has pushed for Lucy's relocation, said she was disappointed in the mayor's response.

"We have sent him so much information about Lucy and about her problems and why she should be moved and why it's really a death sentence to keep her here. It's like he (Mayor Mandel) just doesn't hear. I'm really disheartened that he would take that attitude."

The city did have another elephant that was shipped to the south and plans to close Lucy's exhibit when she passes.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO IN EDMONTON



Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel says Toronto city council is being ridiculous by calling on the Alberta capital to move Lucy, an aging elephant, out of its zoo. METRO FILE

Jobs. Oakville Ford plant creates 300 positions for laid-off workers

Ford Canada says it is adding a third shift at its Oakville assembly plant, creating 300 jobs that will be first offered to laid off employees.

The company says high consumer demand for vehicles built at the plant has made a third shift necessary at its body, paint and pre-trim department.

There are still about 220 employees on layoff from the closure of the company's St. Thomas assembly plant, which closed in September 2011, who will get first priority.

Ford says it expects the third shift to start in the first quarter of next year.

The addition of the third shift was part of a recent deal with the Canadian Auto Workers union.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New openings

- **Layoffs.** Ford has about 800 employees on layoff.
- **Negotiations.** It agreed in negotiations to investments that could create about 600 new jobs in its assembly complex in Oakville.

Endangered list

Farmers take on killer whales

Farmers in California want killer whales that ply the waters between British Columbia and the U.S. to be removed from the endangered-species list, saying regulations to protect salmon the mammals eat are creating a huge economic burden.

The agricultural industry is being represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, which has persuaded the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to review whether southern resident killer whales should be delisted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Auto insurance is a major expense in a household budget. While it's mandatory to have insurance, overpaying is not necessary. There are simple ways of getting a more affordable auto insurance rate, regardless of age or driving experience.

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There may have been some improvement in yearly premiums for drivers with some driving experience. Don't forget to also ask about further discounts. These may include: installing a security system, driving an eco-friendly car, or installing safety features such as winter tires. If recently married, combine policies with your spouse and take advantage of bulk discounting by having more than one car insured with the company.

EXPERIENCED DRIVERS
An experienced driver with a good driving record may be eligible for better insurance rates; the key is to find the insurance company that will offer the lowest rate. Shopping around for car insurance is the easiest way to find a better way. Other ways to save include changing your deductible – perhaps carrying a higher deductible; or, combining home and auto insurance policies with the same insurance company.

DRIVERS OVER 55 YEARS
Mature drivers over 55 years old may qualify for some of the best rates available. Some insurance companies across Canada specialize in getting the best rates for mature drivers. There are also retirement benefits to keep in mind: no commute distance may mean a lower rate. Make sure the insurance company changes the commuting status to pleasure use.

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Man charged with pretending to be policeman

Cyber-crime. Woman got suspicious when suspect said he had personal details about her during chat

JOHN MATISZ
Metro in London, Ont.

London police have charged a 45-year-old St. Thomas, Ont., man with impersonating a police officer on a dating website.

A woman alerted police after interacting with suspect Perry Lambert, who posted a photo of an officer and claimed it was him. During conversations online and on the phone, the man provided personal information about the woman. She grew suspicious and contacted the police.

An investigation by London police's cyber-crime unit determined Lambert was not a police officer and had gathered the woman's personal information through Internet searches.

London police Const. Dennis Rivest calls the impersonation incident a "one-off," adding it's something that doesn't happen often at all here. However, he warns residents of the general dangers of owning an online profile with personal information readily available to anyone.

"People will set up their profiles, put a lot of information in it, and some of that information doesn't necessarily need to be out there," Rivest said. "If you choose to put it there, you choose to put it there — that's your choice. All we're saying is be cautious."

Lambert was arrested in his car — a 2002 brown GMC Envoy modified to resemble an unmarked police vehicle.

Police also found he had left his two-year-old child unattended at his home for approximately 2.5 hours. The child was found unharmed. A search of the suspect's residence resulted in the seizure of his computer and police paraphernalia.

Lambert has been charged with three counts of impersonating a police officer, two counts of impersonating for advantage, and one count of leaving a child unattended.

Quoted

"All we're saying is be cautious."

London police Const. Dennis Rivest.
On the responsibilities and pitfalls of sharing information on an online profile

Down by the river

Hindu devotees gather on the banks of the river Ganges to take holy dips during Karthik Purnima in Haridwar, India. Karthik Purnima is celebrated on the full moon day of the Hindu calendar month of Karthik and is considered very auspicious. SANDEEP SHARMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A chef shows off a gingerbread model of the White House ahead of the meeting of Obama and Romney. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama, Romney to dine and discuss

Hearing him out. U.S. president's election rival was promised the meeting to voice ideas

U.S. President Barack Obama will host former political rival Mitt Romney for a private lunch at the White House on Thursday, their first meeting since the Nov. 6 election.

Obama promised in his victory speech to engage with the Republican following their bitter campaign and consider his ideas.

Thursday's lunch will likely be their most extensive private meeting ever. The two had only a handful of brief exchanges before the 2012 election. Even during the election, their interactions were largely confined to the three presidential debates.

The men will meet in the White House's private dining room and White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama was looking forward to having a "useful discussion" with his former competitor.

One topic of discussion may be the looming so-called "fiscal cliff," the combination of expiring tax breaks and deep spending cuts that will take effect Jan. 1 if Obama and a divided Congress can't reach a deal to avoid it. The economic impact has been estimated at more than $670 billion for next year alone, and it threatens to send the U.S. back into recession.

Another topic of discussion at Thursday's lunch could be Romney's idea to raise money instead by capping taxpayers' deductions. He floated the idea during his campaign.

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Muskrat Falls

Hydro project may pose mercury concerns for Inuit

The proposed Muskrat Falls hydro project in Labrador will have major effects downstream, including potential health problems from mercury contamination that will infringe Inuit rights, says the Nunatsiavut government. It cites preliminary results from research samples indicating mercury from the Churchill River is already flowing into Lake Melville, a key food source for about 2,000 Inuit.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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GOLD
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Natural gas: $3.81 (-8¢)
Dow Jones: 12,985.11 (+106.98)

Anti-corruption squad nabs former SNC-Lavalin CEO

Fraud charges. Arrest relates to Montreal superhospital contract

The former head of Canada's biggest engineering firm, who once mused that Quebec was taking sufficient measures to fight corruption in the construction industry, was arrested Wednesday by the squad at the centre of those efforts.

Pierre Duhaime, the former chief executive of SNC-Lavalin, was taken from his home by police in connection with alleged fraud involving one of Montreal's huge new superhospitals.

The arrest warrant alleges that Duhaime and Riasdh Ben Aissa, another former top executive, also committed conspiracy to commit fraud and uttered false documents in connection with a contract pertaining to the multibillion-dollar McGill University Health Centre. The infractions are alleged to have taken place between April 30, 2009, and Aug. 31, 2011.

Duhaime was expected to be released on a promise to appear in court at a later date after being questioned by provincial anti-corruption squad investigators. Squad chief Robert Lafreniere said "international proceedings" have been initiated against Ben Aissa, who is currently detained in Switzerland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former SNC-Lavalin CEO Pierre Duhaime THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Quebec construction inquiry

- A senator appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he could not possibly have known that some of his business contacts would someday be accused of having criminal Mafia links. Sen. Leo Housakos reacted Wednesday to details emerging from Quebec's construction inquiry, expressing frustration over what he called a smear-by-association campaign and a "witch hunt."
- Housakos was named at the inquiry for attending meetings that are being scrutinized at the high-profile probe. The inquiry heard he met with two men who now face numerous criminal charges in an unrelated affair.

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Gulf oil spill. BP cut out of new U.S. federal contracts

The Obama administration put a temporary stop to new federal contracts with British oil company BP on Wednesday, citing the company's "lack of business integrity" and criminal proceedings stemming from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010.

The action by the Environmental Protection Administration won't affect current contracts, but prevents BP and its affiliates from new government contracts "until the company can provide sufficient evidence to EPA demonstrating that it meets federal business standards," the agency said.

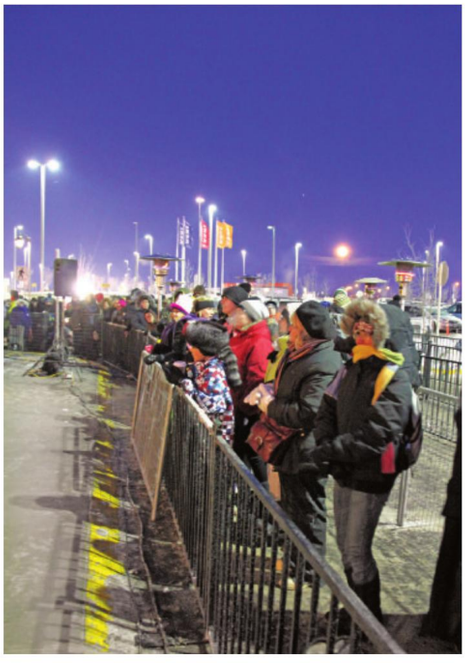
"EPA is taking this action due to BP's lack of business integrity as demonstrated by the company's conduct with regard to the Deepwater Horizon blowout, explosion, oil spill, and response," the agency said in a statement.

In London, BP said it had no immediate comment but expected to make a statement later.

The suspension came the same day two BP rig supervisors and a former executive were arraigned on criminal charges stemming from the deadly explosion and the company's response to the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The three men are charged with manslaughter in the deaths of 11 rig workers. They all pleaded not guilty on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pools of dispersed oil collect on a section of the public beach in Grand Isle, La., a few months after the 2010 BP oil spill. Citing "a lack of business integrity" at BP, the Obama administration put a temporary stop to new federal contracts with the British oil company on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE



IKEA fans brave the cold

An estimated 2,000 people waited Wednesday morning to get a glimpse of Winnipeg's new IKEA store, which opened at 9 a.m. Roughly 800 of those dedicated shoppers lined up starting at midnight to be among the first through the doors. The weather got so chilly that the retailer let people wait in the warehouse overnight, but then asked them to step outside again around 7 a.m. so it could finish setting up.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

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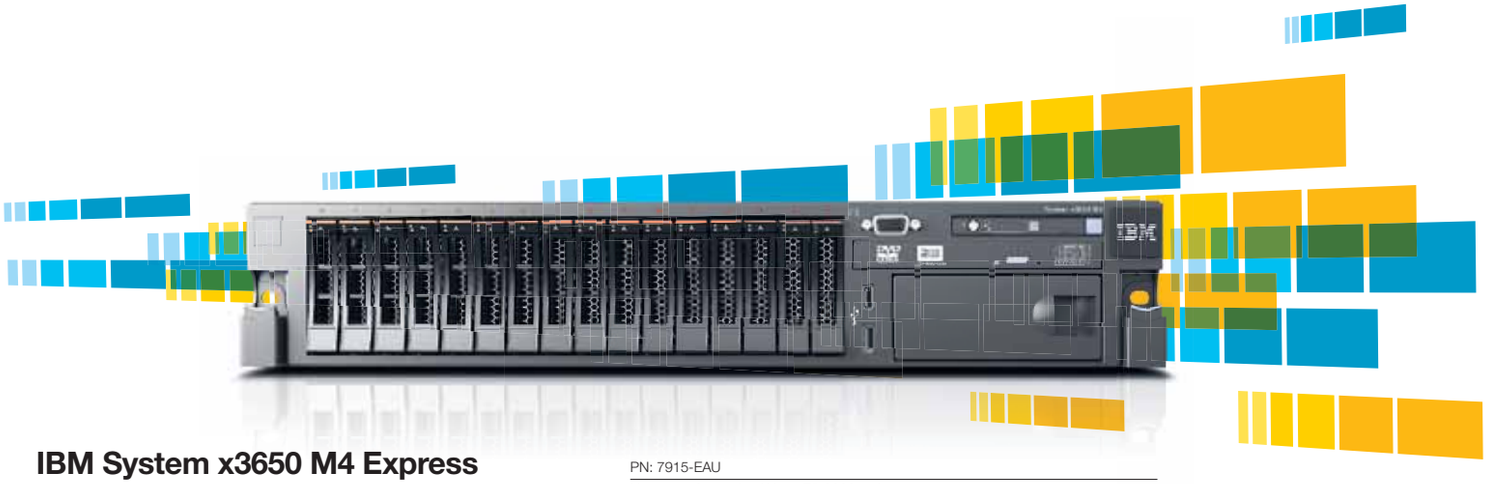

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1. TBR Report – "IBM System x® x86 servers: Meeting the demands of today's enterprises by combining value and support," January 2012. **2.** Source: Intel Performance comparison using SPECfp*_rate_base2006 benchmark. Baseline score of 267 on prior generation 2S Intel® Xeon® processor X5690 (3.46 GHz, 6 core, 12MB L3, 6.4 GT/s, 130W) based platform published at www.spec.org as of 6 Sept 2011. Estimated new score of 486 on 2S Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690 (2.90 GHz, 8 core, 20MB L3, 8.0 GT/s, 135W) based platform is based on Intel internal measured estimates as of 6 Sept 2011 using two Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690, Turbo Enabled, EIST Enabled, Hyper-Threading Enabled, 64 GB memory (8 x 8 GB DDR3-1600), Red Hat® Enterprise Linux Server 6.1 beta for x86_6, Intel® Compiler 12.1. **3.** x3650 M4 supports up to 768 GB of memory using 32 GB LRDIMMs in it 24 memory slots. Previous generation x3650 M3 supports up to 192 GB of memory. **4.** Ships with 4 1 Gb Ethernet ports standard and supports integrated slot-less 10 Gb Ethernet with Virtual Fabric. Previous generation server includes 2 1 Gb Ethernet slots and requires use of a PCI Express slot to support 10 Gb Ethernet. *Available later in 2012. IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and serviceable used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply. For a copy of applicable product warranties, visit http://www.ibm.com/servers/support/machine_warranties. IBM makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. IBM, the IBM logo, BladeCenter, System Storage, Storwize and System x are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. For a current list of IBM trademarks, see www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. All prices and savings estimates are subject to change without notice, may vary according to configuration, are based upon IBM's estimated retail selling prices as of 11/06/12 and may not include storage, hard drive, operating system or other features. Reseller prices and savings to end users may vary. Products are subject to availability. This document was developed for offerings in Canada. IBM may not offer the products, features, or services discussed in this document in other countries. Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner for the most current pricing in your geographic area. © 2012 IBM Corporation.

STRIKE THE SHOPPERS AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS... John Mazerolle metronews.ca

Oh, joy! It's once again that magical time of year when we get into the "spirit" of Christmas — so called because Christmas, as it was once understood, is dead by the end of November, either killed by the Gods of Consumerism or trampled to death at a shopping mall by people clambering for this year's must have present: Restraining Order Elmo. Fa la la la la la la la la.

It all began last week, with people in their stretchiest shopping pants crawling all over each other during Grey Thursday, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Paisley Sunday, Cyber Monday, The Tantalizing Tremendous and Transcendent Tues-tacular, and Wednesday.

Wednesday!

The Black Friday weekend has become the unofficial "starting gun" of the Christmas shopping season, though that bang you heard was probably just a Walmart greeter firing a warning shot into the air. Giving like Santa and saving like Scrooge might be the goal, but a lot of people just trample like nine angry reindeer.

When I was doing research for this column, I tried to type Christmas shopping statistics into Google but it auto-filled to Christmas shopping safety tips.

This made perfect sense.

Watching the Black Friday swarm move through a mall like locusts — leaving behind employees wearing nothing but their smiley-face pins — is fascinating, but frightening.

It occurs to me how fitting it is that the 1978 horror allegory Dawn of the Dead was a film about a shopping mall full of flesh-eating zombies that shuffled slowly in a slack-jawed, aimless stupor, while the more recent remake had fast zombies bounding through the mall in a quick, deadly crush. While the first film was clearly meant to mock the day's spirit of consumerism, I think the echo of fast, awful crowds in the second film was just good luck. Living death imitates art.

And all the more fitting since Christmas advertising now starts on Halloween.

The festivities used to kick into gear after Remembrance Day, but I suspect in the future we'll just tell kids the story of how The Veterans Saved Christmas while we enjoy our seasonal Peppermint poppy mochas.

The worst part of all for me is that, despite my non-believer status, I really like Christmas. I like the lights and the outdoor markets and most of the music, and so it kills me a little to see people getting all mobby over stuff they'll forget about by Jan. 3.

The more violent aspects seem solely American so far, but we might not be far behind. There were zombies lined up outside Canadian malls at 6 a.m. on Black Friday, because we saw the old ladies hurting each other on the TV and naturally thought, "We want some of that."

In the spirit of Christmas giving, might I suggest that we return the favour by giving Americans our Boxing Day sales? Given their track record, they'll enjoy another shopping day while making the name more apt than ever.

Deck your fellow patrons

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Customers wait in line to enter Best Buy on Black Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. According to recent data, Black Friday is expected to attract zombies to Canadian malls by 2014. TOM PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Still trying to impress Olive Oyl

STEPHAN SAVOIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ripped

Hey, Popeye, where's your pipe?

Don't tell Popeye. It turns out you don't need to eat your spinach to get the world's biggest arms. Bodybuilder Moustafa Ismail insists they are all-natural, the result of a punishing workout regimen he started after a guest at his uncle's wedding in his native Egypt mocked his overweight frame.

"They call me Popeye, the Egyptian Popeye," Ismail, 24, said while working out in the Boston suburb of Milford. But unlike the cartoon character, "I like chicken, beef, anything but spinach."

It's not easy having the world's biggest arms.

Skeptics say there must also be steroids or some other artificial means behind Ismail's beyond-bulging biceps and triceps, and Guinness World Records is now waffling on whether to recognize him.

Controversy ensued when Guinness decided to recognize him as having the largest upper arm muscles. In response to critics, they are now conducting research with medical specialists and reviewing Ismail's category.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big guns

- Ismail started building his muscles in his Egyptian hometown of Alexandria before moving to the United States in 2007 and settling in Franklin, southwest of Boston.
- To pay for his gym membership and daily dietary requirements, he worked two jobs as a gas station attendant, but gave up one after his wife began to complain that he was pushing himself too hard.

No sweat

31 inches

Ismail eats three kilograms of protein and four kilograms of carbohydrates, and drinks 11 litres of water each day to help maintain upper arms that measure 31 inches around — as big as a small man's waist. Generous amounts of poultry, seafood and shakes provide the protein he needs to fuel daily two-hour workouts in which he lifts as much as 600 pounds.

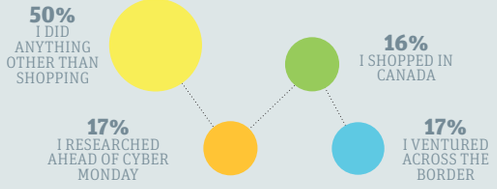
Online

Watch the video at metronews.ca

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What did you do on Black Friday?



Twitter

@ampahcd: ●●●○○
#Toronto- seems to me, it was Mayor Rob Ford who tried to overturn the plastic bag ban months ago. Look at you now. Wake up people

@taarajones: ●●●○○
What is this nonsense about the TTC using presto instead of metropasses.... oh my lord. Trying to make us broke I see

@klausenhauser: ●●●○○
i feel like the rollout of #presto on the #ttc could be better. shld've had marketing in place before ppl heard about it on a press release

@mstrfrck: ●●●○○
Soooo many #Movember moustaches along queen street west tonight in #Toronto.

@TRU_Vitality: ●●●○○
Do you know someone having a rough time right now?TRU wants to pamper them for 2 hrs! ($500 value). no strings. nominate them. tweet at us.

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SWAP YOUR RIDE EVENT

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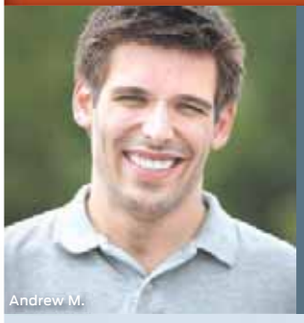

"I drive a Honda Civic, but I love the Focus."

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See dealer for details. **Receive a winter safety package which includes: four (4) winter tires; four (4) steel rims (2012 Escape receives alloy wheels); and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensors when you purchase or lease any new 2012/2013 Ford Fiesta, Focus (excluding BEV & ST), Fusion (excluding HEV), Escape, Edge (excluding Sport) or Explorer on or before Nov 30/12. Customers choosing to opt out of the winter safety package will qualify for $750 in customer cash. This offer is not applicable to any Fleet (other than small fleets with an eligible F/N) or Government customers and not combinable with CPA, GPC, CPP or Daily Rental Allowances. Some conditions apply. See dealer for details. Vehicle handling characteristics, tire load index and speed rating may not be the same as factory supplied all-season tires. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all-season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. *Lease a new [2013] Ford Focus SE Sedan Manual (Fiesta SE Hatchback Manual/Escape SE FWD 1.6L Ecoboost) and get [0% (0%/1.99%) APR or (60/48/36) months on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Example: [$17,234/$14,724/$23,361] Cash Purchase Price] with [$1,598/$1,399/$3,386] down payment or equivalent trade-in, monthly payment is [$198/$168/$298] total lease obligation is [$11,250/$10,080/$14,688] optional buyout is [$7,744/$6,778/$14,226] cost of borrowing is [$0/$0/$1,133] or [0%/0%/1.99%] APR. Offers include [$750] in Winter Safety Package Cash Alternative. Taxes payable on full amount of lease financing price after any manufacturer rebates is deducted. Additional payments required for security deposit, NSF fees (where applicable), excess wear and tear, and late fees. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. 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SCENE 2

Rock stars on display at Analogue Gallery show

Photography. Shots of icons like Leonard Cohen, David Bowie and Miles Davis part of collection

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Rock stars were once defined by the still images on record jackets and music rags. Tonight, those images will once again take centre stage as local rock photography space the Analogue Gallery hosts its third anniversary party.

On display will be a collection of images shot by Barrie Wentzell, including pics of "old farts" like Leonard Cohen, David Bowie and Miles Davis. "Most of the pictures, I don't think I've ever used before," he says.

Originally from the U.K., Wentzell started shooting musicians in the early '60s.

By 1965 he was a staff photographer at Melody Maker, an influential music weekly.

Back then, he says, access to musicians like Mick Jagger and Jimi Hendrix was far less controlled than it is today, giving photogs a chance to build close friendships with the soon-to-be stars.

"We were all looking for something to do in the arts before we got a proper job," he says. "Then this turned into a proper job."

Wentzell quit shooting musicians in the mid-'70s, working at his brother's vegetable store before immigrating to Toronto in the early '80s. Yet his photos live on.

"When we first opened, Barrie was one of our first big photographers," says gallery owner Lucia Graca. "His collection has been one of the mainstays of the gallery."

Graca worked under famed rock photographer Jill Furmanovsky at the Rock Archive in London, U.K., before opening Analogue on Queen West in 2009.

Furmanovsky put the two in touch with one another and Wentzell remains a friend of the gallery. He'll be on hand tonight to help launch the new collection of his work, which will remain on display through the end of the year. "I never thought these people would have been of any interest all these years later," he says humbly.

"Half of them are dead, but they live on in these pictures."

Analogue Gallery's third Anniversary Party is tonight. 6 to 10 p.m. at 673 Queen St. West. RSVP at analoguegallery.com

Piano party

Analogue Gallery has teamed with Toronto piano shop Paul Hahn, which has provided an upright Steinway piano for the gallery's anniversary party. "We've been talking about a way to collaborate," says Graca. "We're both big supporters of each other's businesses." For the party, the shop has curated music that will be played by three pianists. The relationship works two ways — next year, as Paul Hahn celebrates 100 years in business, images from Analogue will be on display at the family run business's Yonge Street headquarters.

Miles Davis is just one of the legends on display at the Analogue Gallery. BARRIE WENTZELL

Alicia Keys presents new side of herself

New album. Singer talks about the making of her fifth album, her son jumping on a track with her and re-designing who she is

Alicia Keys will make you cry. Cry hard.

That's what happened when a close friend listened to the song Brand New Me, a personal piano-tune from Keys' new album that she calls her autobiography. On it, she sings about being herself, even if others don't approve.

"When I looked up from playing it, she was crying and she was like, 'Why didn't you warn me?' It caught her off-guard," Keys recalled in an interview.

"There's something about a time in your life that we all go through — if you haven't gone through it you will — that you find you're going to rise above something that's kind of held you back and you find this thing inside of you that really says, 'I'm new now.'"

Keys' life has changed tremendously since she recorded The Element of Freedom three years ago.

She's now a mother and Broadway producer, and has dealt with her first major tabloid drama, involving her relationship with her husband, producer-rapper Swizz Beatz, and his ex-wife.

And the 31-year-old Keys, who rarely collaborates with other singers, is working with new players: Girl on Fire, out this week, features Bruno Mars, Frank Ocean, Jamie xx, Nicki Minaj, Emeli Sande, Babyface, Dr. Dre, John Legend and Maxwell.

"I'm just way more open all around, and I really wanted to work with some different people this time that could really accentuate what I do," she said.

Keys talked about her fifth album, new haircut and two-year-old son.

What was it like writing Brand New Me, since the lyrics are so direct?

I think the whole album is more lyrical than ever before and I definitely think it is on a deeper level. ... Maybe it's more accessible, or maybe I've given more access to myself.

I think the real thing is I'm clearer about who I am, myself and what I feel. And I think probably when I was younger, maybe you have more of a sense of wanting to save a part of yourself or hide a part of yourself, or protect a part of yourself or something like that, and that's just natural.

Your son is featured on When It's All Over. How did that happen?

We were in the studio working on it, and he came in and he was kind of seeing us sing and writing it, and so he wanted to see the mic, so I passed it to him and he started talking on it. But this is when he was like a year and three months, so what first was on there was kind of just the first words he was saying, but as time progressed and we were about to wrap the album, I was like, 'I really gotta get Egypt on ... because he's two now, he has a lot to say, he has a personality.' And so I brought him back into the studio ... and you'll notice, I'll ask him what's his name and he says, 'Showtime' (laughs).

So for those that know my husband, you'll understand what that means.

Has being a mother changed the way you create music?

It was definitely strange. What really happened is I was a lot more precise about what I wanted to accomplish. ... Whereas before, it was kind of like endless hours in the studio, just doing everything. I'd be eating there. I'd be talking on the phone. I'd be doing music there. I'd be like hanging out, chillin', watch a move there, like doing everything. It was less about that and more about, "Here's what I'm coming to do, the vision I had for today and then I'm going home." So it was a lot more specific and actually that focus was really good for me.

You cut your hair. How does it feel?

I love this hair. I love it chopped off. I love all the things I can do with it. In fact, I can do more things with my short hair than I could do with my long hair to be honest. It's just such a freeing, powerful feeling to have short hair and to let go of all the things in my past, you know, 'cause I feel like you start fresh. You start fresh and fly, and that's how I feel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We were in the studio working on it, and he came in and he was kind of seeing us sing and writing it, and so he wanted to see the mic, so I passed it to him and he started talking on it."

Alicia Keys
Talking about her son joining her on a track.

One more question

Has the songwriting process changed for you over the years?

- **Answer.** It does change. The approach changes depending on different times. My last record, Element, it was more like, I was so into sounds and sonics, I was so into how to create more sonic places to go to and experiment. I think the songwriting process came almost second to the sonics of it.

Alicia Keys showcases a new side of herself on her latest album. GETTY IMAGES

Adele. Sophomore studio album sells more than 10 million copies

Adele is rolling in the records.

The 24-year-old British songstress's album 21 has sold more than 10 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The album reached the milestone last week, less than two years after its release.

21 is the 21st album to sell 10 million copies since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking sales in 1991.

Adele's sophomore studio album debuted in 2011 and featured such hits as Rolling in the Deep, Someone Like You and Set Fire to the Rain.

It's the third album to reach the 10 million mark in 2012. Linkin Park's Hybrid Theory and Usher's Confessions both crossed the 10 million mark earlier this year. Adele won in all six categories she was nominated in at the Grammys earlier this year, including album of the year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adele continues to surprise with her successes as her album hit a new plateau. GETTY IMAGES

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South Korean rapper PSY giving a traditional welcome to his Thai fans in Bangkok. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cruise style! Tom is PSY's celeb choice to go Gangnam

Mission Impossible?

YouTube record-setting sensation says he'd love to see famous actor do his dance

The South Korean rapper behind YouTube's most-viewed video ever has set what might be a Mission: Impossible for himself. Asked which celebrity he would like to see go Gangnam Style, the singer PSY said, "Tom Cruise!"

Surrounded by screaming fans, he then chuckled at the idea of the American movie star doing his now famous horse-riding dance. PSY's comments Wednesday in Bangkok were his first public remarks since his viral smash video — with 838 million views — surpassed Justin Bieber's Baby, which until Saturday held the record with 803 million views.

"It's amazing," PSY told a news conference, saying he never set out to become an international star. "I made this video just for Korea. And when I released this song — wow."

The video has spawned hundreds of parodies and tribute videos and earned him a spotlight alongside a variety of superstars. Earlier this month, Madonna invited PSY onstage and they danced to his song at one of her New York City concerts. MC Hammer introduced the Korean star at the American Music Awards as, "My Homeboy PSY!"

Even U.S. President Barack Obama is talking about him. Asked on Election Day if he could do the dance, Obama replied: "I think I can do that move," but then concluded he might "do it privately for Michelle," the first lady.

Surprise hit

"I made this video just for Korea. And when I released this song – wow."

Rapper PSY
On the record-breaking success of his Youtube single Gangnam Style.

PSY was in Thailand to give a free concert Wednesday night organized as a tribute to the country's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who turns 85 next month. He paid respects to the king at a Bangkok shopping mall, signing his name in an autograph book placed beside a giant poster of the king.

Determined not to be a one-hit wonder, PSY said he plans to release a worldwide album in March. "I have plenty of dance moves left," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hobbit fans revelling in New Zealand premiere of Jackson's latest production

Coming to theatres. Fans and actors laud most recent effort from Jackson, who credits unusual shooting style for success

Wearing elf ears and wizard hats, sitting atop their dad's shoulders or peering from balconies, tens of thousands of New Zealanders watched their favourite Hobbit actors walk the red carpet Wednesday at the film trilogy's hometown premiere.

An Air New Zealand plane freshly painted with Hobbit characters flew low over Wellington's Embassy Theatre, eliciting roars of approval from the crowd.

Sam Rashidmardani, 12, said he came to see Gollum actor Andy Serkis walk the red carpet — and he wasn't disappointed.

"It was amazing," Rashidmardani said of the evening, adding his Gollum impression: "My precious."

British actor Martin Freeman, who brings comedic timing to the lead role of Bilbo Baggins, said he thought director Peter Jackson had done a fantastic job on The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.

Director Peter Jackson poses with his daughter Katie on the red carpet at the premiere of his new film The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, in New Zealand. ROSS SETFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"He's done it again," Freeman said in an interview on the red carpet.

"If it's possible, it's probably even better than The Lord of the Rings. I think he's surpassed it."

While it is unusual for a city so far from Hollywood to host the premiere of a hoped-for blockbuster, Jackson's filming of his lauded LOTR trilogy and now The Hobbit in New Zealand has helped create a film industry here. The film will open in theatres around the world next month.

One of the talking points of the film is the choice by Jackson to shoot it using 48 frames per second instead of the traditional 24 in hopes of improving the picture quality.

Some say the images come out too clear and look so realistic that they take away from the magic of the film medium. Jackson likens it to advancing from vinyl records to CDs.

Quoted

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction. It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Peter Jackson
Director of The Hobbit.

"I really think 48 frames is pretty terrific and I'm looking forward to seeing the reaction," Jackson said on the red carpet. "It's been talked about for so long, but finally the film is being released and people can decide for themselves."

Jackson said it was strange working on the project so intimately for two years and then having it suddenly taken away as the world got to see the movie.

"It spins your head a little bit," he said.

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Ray Liotta treads softly in his latest mob role

New movie. Best known for his bad guy roles, Liotta flips the script in Killing Them Softly as he becomes a good guy mobster

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Ray Liotta knows how to give a hell of a fake beating. He's also good at taking one, as he does in his latest film — mobster drama Killing Them Softly. Though fans are still asking him to say lines from his iconic role in 1994's Goodfellas, the New Jersey native doesn't mind slipping back into the role of a gangster for Andrew Dominik's new film, especially since, as he says, he's playing a good gangster this time around.

In this film, the mob underworld serves as a microcosm for the country as a whole. So many people felt victimized by the 2008 financial crisis, which is when this film is set. The mobsters who get ripped off in the card game robberies represent the general public. What do you think is the allegorical message of all of that?
Just that everybody needs money. Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board — good guys and bad guys.

Quoted

"Everybody got hit. I'm not sure, but I guess it happens to all walks of life. You don't think of it as maybe hurting people who do illegal things, but it stands to reason (the effect of the crisis), I guess, would be across the board."
Ray Liotta
Talking about the 2008 financial crisis.

It's refreshing how the film places the mob in the context of the crisis. Is that one of the things that attracted you to this role?
That was in the book … But that's not why I did it. I did it more just because it was a really interesting story and it was nice to play somebody who was the victim as opposed to the aggressor. It was different in terms of the bad guys that I've played.

What was the strangest mob story you've been asked to do?
I get to play cops — bad cops, some bad guys. I've only played two guys who were in the mob, Goodfellas and then I've got one coming out, Ice Man, which is a really good movie. I was asked to do The Sopranos, but it just wasn't the right time to do it. In the beginning of my career, I handled it very delicately in terms of limiting the bad guys. The irony of it all is I've never been in a fight in my whole life, yet I play and they ask me to do these kinds of guys.

Ray Liotta stars in the latest mobster drama Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Angus T. Jones ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Two and a Half Men actor Angus T. Jones apologizes over 'filth' remark

Two and a Half Men star Angus T. Jones is doing damage control following his remarks during an interview with a Christian website in which he called the hit show "filth" and urged fans not to watch it. Jones released a statement this week aiming to smooth things over with his bosses and co-workers — though he pointedly didn't take back what he said. "I apologize if my remarks reflect me showing indifference to and disrespect of my colleagues and a lack of appreciation of the extraordinary opportunity of which I have been blessed," Jones' statement reads. "I never intended that."

Twitter

@jtimberlake
Memphis ... I love you. Always good to come home. Thanksgiving has got to be the best holiday. Also, I'm a pig.

@pattyduke_id
Have any of you heard or seen an article on twitter going to start charging a fee. Let me know, got a tweet saying it, but might be hacker

@JonahHill
Now I'm watching Black Swan and this movie is crazy and amazing

@JimCarrey
Archeologists are now saying that the visit of the 3 Magi to baby Jesus did happen but that the myrrh may have been a regift!

The Word

That was quick! Jessica Simpson is pregnant again

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Whoa. Here's some news I didn't see coming: Jessica Simpson is pregnant, again.

Seven months after giving birth to daughter Maxwell, Jessica Simpson is reportedly already expecting another child, according to Us Weekly. "It definitely wasn't planned," a source says. "But yes, Jessica is pregnant again." This would be the second baby for Simpson and fiancé Eric Johnson. A rep for Simpson has yet to comment.

Oh man, you guys. This brings up so many questions, mainly: What was she thinking? But also: Is she taking cues from notorious quick-turnaround-breeder Tori Spelling? (Ed note: Never, ever take life tips from Tori Spelling.) What will happen to her multimillion dollar campaign with Weight Watchers? Because you know girlfriend isn't going to slim down anytime soon. And does this mean we're all going to be subjected to photos of her being gigantic yet again? As someone who has a seven-month-old at home, I'm down with pregnant ladies and have nothing but respect for them, but my Us Weekly just finally stopped running photos of her waddling around L.A. Hey, paparazzi — I think we (and probably Jessica Simpson) could use a little break. Let's let her gestate in peace this go round, OK?

Gabriel Aubry

Gabriel Aubry fails to have restraining order from Halle Berry lifted

Gabriel Aubry's efforts to have the restraining order against him lifted following a Thanksgiving brawl with ex-girlfriend Halle Berry's fiancé, Olivier Martinez, have failed, with a judge denying his request to dismiss the ban, according to TMZ. The order, which requires Aubry to stay at least 100 yards away from Martinez, Berry and the four-year-old daughter Aubry shares with Berry, Nahla, is set to expire today due to a clerical error, though Berry is expected to file a request to extend the ban.

Dolly Parton

Parton rubbishes gay best friend rumours

Despite being married to Carl Dean for 46 years, Dolly Parton has been dogged by rumours romantically linking her to best friend Judy Ogly for years. "Judy and I have been best friends since we were like in the third and fourth grade," Parton says in an interview with ABC's Nightline. "We still just have a great friendship and relationship and I love her as much as I love anybody in the whole world, but we're not romantically involved." On the plus side, the persistent rumours did give Parton something she could bond over with Oprah Winfrey: "Like Gayle (King), her friend, Judy, my friend, they just think that you

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IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: At the CTV Bellmedia Queen St. W. bldg+something big, new+exciting is brewing! Our release goes out at noon. Stay tuned!!

@Jeanne_Beker: The word is out: We"re launching theLoop.ca by Sympatico Dec. 13th

@Jeanne_Beker: TheLoop.ca will be a cutting edge lifestyle destination with plenty of style to keep you satiated!

@Jeanne_Beker: With the inspiring +lovely Senator Linda Frum. Just interviewed her at the Harold Green Theatre.

@Jeanne_Beker: Just 2 of the many FANTABULOUS prs of shoes that the divine @ConradNadeau has brought for our shoot.

@Jeanne_Beker: Bekky @qualityslippers graciously agrees to don @EDITbyJeanneB Spring 2013 for a quick shot!

@Jeanne_Beker: So many shots to choose from @EDITbyJeanneB for spring! Love @Mackenzie_ photo too. :)

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Freya Bernales
Architectural draftsperson
Age: 23

What she's wearing
Zara jacket, Tiffany necklace, Forever 21 shirt, H&M jeans, Lola Shoetique shoes, Marc Jacobs bag, Ray Ban glasses

Her inspiration
"I try to avoid trends in favour of more classic looks — things I can mix and match easily."

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: TIFFANY TRINIDAD, TIFFANYTRINIDAD.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM, AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

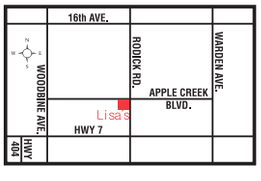
Lisa's Cosmetics 2012 CHRISTMAS WAREHOUSE SALE
Sale Dates: Nov 30 - Dec 3 & Dec 7 -10
Sat: 9am to 6pm, Sun: 10am to 6pm, Mon, Tues, Fri: 10am to 8pm

November 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15



No Strollers or Children under 12 allowed

Fashion accessories, skin care products and much more!
Health & Beauty Products
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L'Oreal, Garnier, Johnson & Johnson, Olay

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Which star do you want to take home?

Celebs for sale.
Stores are cashing in on celebrities' money-making names with trendsetters like the Kardashians and Madonna hitting the shelves

Ivanka Trump attends the Henri Bendel holiday window unveiling at Henri Bendel on Nov. 15, 2012 in New York City. JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES FOR HENRI BENDEL

This holiday season you're likely to spot singer Jennifer Lopez in Kohl's. You could get a peek at pop music icon Madonna in Macy's. You might even catch a glimpse of reality TV star Kim Kardashian in Sears.

Well, not literally.

These celebrities likely won't be making guest appearances in the aisles of your favourite department stores. But clothes, shoes and even ties that bear their names will.

It's part of a big push by stores to cash in on celebrities' money-making names. The move can be savvy. After all, who wouldn't want to don the stylish duds of a superstar? It can also be risky. The stars, figuratively, have to be aligned for celebrity lines to become a hit with shoppers. That can mean having the right celebrity pair up with the right store at the right time with the right amount of involvement in the design of the line.

"If it's simply to monetize your moment in the sun, it is not going to work in the long-term," says Ivanka Trump, the billionaire daughter of real estate mogul Donald Trump and a reality TV personality who has a line of $150 handbags and $125 pumps at Lord & Taylor and other stores. "You have to be involved in every aspect of the product line."

Celebs have long dabbled in design. But with the growth of TV shows and websites that follow everything celebrities say, wear and do, interest in their clothing lines has risen in recent years. Indeed, North America revenue from celebrity clothing lines, excluding merchandise linked to athletes, rose six per cent last year to $7.58 billion in 2011, according to the latest figures available by The Licensing Letter, an industry trade publication. That's on top of a nearly five per cent increase in 2010.

Major department stores, facing growing competition from trendy fashion chains such as H&M, Mango and Zara have jumped on the trend. They're hoping to reap benefits from the lines during the holiday shopping season in November through December, a time when stores can make up to 40 per cent of their annual revenue. Big stores now get as much as a quarter of their sales from celebrity brands, up from under 10 per cent five years ago, according to market research firm NPD Group.

It's important that a celebrity doesn't say or do things that could reflect poorly on a store's image. Earlier this month, an angry customer started an online campaign calling for Macy's to dump Donald Trump's line of $65 power ties and $65 dress shirts after the billionaire verbally attacked President Barack Obama on social media after he was re-elected.

Angelo Carusone, 30, has collected nearly 673,000 signatures on petition website signon.org. Carusone, once a loyal Macy's shopper, says he won't shop there again until the retailer severs ties with Trump. "Macy's is building a brand on Trump's consequence-free bullying," he says.

But Macy's has stood by the billionaire, and the uproar has since died down. "Macy's marketing and merchandise offerings are not representative of any political position," says Jim Sluzewski, a spokesman for the chain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"If it's simply to monetize your moment in the sun, it is not going to work in the long-term."
Ivanka Trump

Madonna launched her fragrance Truth or Dare in April. STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

Fashion in a flash

Erdem recognized with coveted fashion award

London-based Canadian label Erdem was among the big winners at the British Fashion Awards.

Montreal-born designer Erdem Moralioglu took home the New Establishment Award on Tuesday, an honour which recognizes a particular movement in British fashion that is taking the industry by storm.

Moralioglu was nominated alongside design duo Meadham Kirchhoff and Scottish-born designer Jonathan Saunders.

CANADIAN PRESS

The Duchess of Cambridge has worn two dresses created by Erdem. ADRIAN WYLD / THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONES NEW YORK
WAREHOUSE SALE
NOV. 29TH - DEC. 9TH

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Entrance is located at the south side of the building just beyond the Outlet store entrance. Visa, Mastercard, Debit, and Cash only. *Cannot be combined with any other offer. Some exceptions may apply. Offer not applicable on Vaughan Outlet store inventory. **Minimum $50 spent before taxes. Valid only from November 29-December 6, 2012. All sales are final.

Canada's BIGGEST Winter Sport
LIQUIDATION SALE

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Over 60,000 items for the Entire Family

Our Legendary Warehouse Liquidation Prices on a HUGE selection of name brand Skiwear, Hockey, Snowboard, In Line and more,
HESPLER Hockey sticks ($24.99) FIREFLY Skiwear ($29.99 & up)
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Name Brand Snowboards $49.99 & up
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Sale On For 4 DAYS ONLY !

Thurs Nov 29 - Sunday Dec 2
The International Center - Hall 6
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Tons of FREE PARKING & FREE ADMISSION
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StyleDemocracy.com

SAVE AN EXTRA 10% OFF Thur Nov 29
Present This Coupon on Opening Day
Thursday NOVEMBER 29, 2012
Save an EXTRA 10% OFF Sale Prices
Valid Nov 29, 2012 only
NO cash Value - 1 Coupon per customer

Tweed's back in town

On paper, tweed brings to mind grandpas, stale suits — and Guy Ritchie. But lately, the trend has been given a new lease on life. We take a look.

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

This is going to make your Grandad smile: tweed is on trend. No, it's not that he knows best, it's just that heritage is still having something of a Jubilee year — thanks to the Royals, in part. Despite tweed's stuffy connotations of old whisky-breathed, cigar-chugging, old men, tweed is now urbane. It's a tailored, hip way to up your work wardrobe ante, with a referential nod to the past. Here we've picked out some of the pieces that'll work for everyone from hipster to hunter.

Prince Charles keeps it classic...in a kilt.

Etro AW 2012. GETTY IMGES

Topman

Harris tweed brown herringbone waistcoat, $100, topman.com

ASOS

slim fit tweed blazer, $132, asos.com

Etro

Minete tweed suit, $2,510

Acne

Neruda tweed Harrington jacket, $650, acnestudios.com

River Island

dark brown tweed camping rucksack, $56, riverisland.com

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He's got the blues

Seventies hustlers step aside. The work-wear denim staple is ready to go urbane.

RICHARD PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

Denim: It's going to be big this season. Sounds like a marketing ruse, doesn't it? But trust us, if you're going to invest in one thing, make it the denim shirt. Yes,we've all seen the classic western-style shirt, it's not gone away, but there's an array of other options — some you could even wear with a tie! **RICHARD PECKETT**

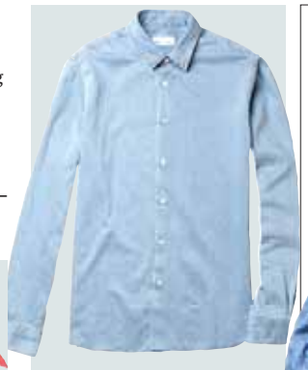
Dressed up in denim

ASOS

Polka dot neckerchief,
$9, asos.com.

Albam

Tweed tie,
albamclothing.com.



Hentsch Man

Friday slim-fit lightweight denim shirt,
$160, mrporter.com.

G-STAR

Raw Essentials Tacoma shirt, $190, g-star.com.

Medwinds

Mesquida denim shirt,
$88, medwinds.com.

Our Legacy

Indigo rinse wash 1940s shirt,
$193, my-wardrobe.com.

Full denim jacket

This ain't no ordinary trucker jacket. This one comes with a collar pop of shearling. It's cosy and an easy way to ramp up the cool factor of your winter wardrobe.

Topman

Mid-wash borg denim western,
$100, topman.com.

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ANNOUNCING THE NAOT WINTER SALE 2012
STARTING SAT DEC 8TH - TILL MONDAY DEC 31ST

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NAOT FOOTWEAR
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JEWELLERY COMPONENT WAREHOUSE SALE
Up to 50% off wholesale on all beads and components
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Gift picks

Five things to buy your fashion-loving BFF

Diana Vreeland

The Eye Has to Travel, $12, amazon.com.

As soon as she unwraps it, schedule in a girlie movie night.

Smythson

I've Got Nothing To Wear notebook, $80, smythson.com.

Nothing compares to a sexy, leather-bound notebook — iPhone be damned.

Kenneth Jay Lane

earrings, $180, netaporter.com.

The cocktail ring is so predictable. Try these timelessly glamorous beauties instead.

J. Crew

poplin set, $70, jcrew.com.

These classic PJs are cozy enough for bed and chic enough to wear out on the street.

Sophie Hulme

leather tote, $870, sophiehulme.com.

The it bag died years ago, but this tote just might bring it back.

Are you a shoe-in?

What's all the fuss a boot?

When the original Cougar Pillow Boot was introduced in 1976, it caused a fashion frenzy. Now the caramel-coloured, rubber-soled, puff leathered boot, which disappeared from shelves for years, is being re-introduced by the same Canadian company from Burlington, Ont., who started the style storm.

Local fashionistas will have the opportunity to take in the 2013 Cougar Pillow Boot Collection as the company's mobile fitting room will be parking at the corner of Queen Street and Vanauley Street today, and at the Scarborough Town Centre, Friday through Sunday. Stoppers-by will be given the opportunity to have their photograph taken in a pair of boots in front of a Canadian-theme backdrop of their choice. The photos will be uploaded to the Cougar Facebook page and the public will have an opportunity to vote for their favourite Cougar model. The winner will win their boots and will become the face of Cougar on a billboard at the corner of Queen and Spadina. Full contest details can be found at facebook.com/cougarboots. METRO

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Twin	$499.99	$249.99
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2 FREE BAMBOO THROWS $120 VALUE with purchase of any mattress set

2 FREE BAMBOO THROWS $120 VALUE with purchase of any mattress set

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www.downunderbedding.com
*Ad must be presented or mentioned to receive offer
Sale Ends: Dec. 2

Unlikely trio of cherries, almonds and wild rice wows in Stuffed Pork

This impressive dish features juicy pork tenderloin filled with dried cherries, hearty wild rice, herbs and roasted almonds. It's sure to be the star of your gathering and will have your guests coming back for more!

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 6 oz (170 g) Italian sausage, removed from casing
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) coarsely chopped dried cherries
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) coarsely chopped roasted almonds
- 1 cup (250 ml) cooked wild rice
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 1/2 lb (1.1 kgs) boneless pork loin, filleted
- Kitchen twine for wrapping
- Salt and pepper for topping

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, warm olive oil. Add onions and sauté until translucent, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add sausage and garlic and cook until browned and cooked through. Remove from heat and add parsley, thyme, rosemary, dried cherries and almonds. Stir in wild rice; add salt and pepper to taste.

2. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Spread filleted pork loin out on a clean work surface. Top pork loin with prepared stuffing from edge to edge. Starting from the short side, roll pork loin and stuffing into a spiral.

3. Tie roll together with heavy-duty kitchen string in the centre and at the two ends of roast to prevent it from unrolling in the oven. Place roast on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and sprinkle generously with salt and pepper. Insert an oven-safe meat thermometer into the centre of the roast and cook for 1 hour. Reduce heat to 325 F (160 C) and continue to cook for another 45 to 60 minutes.

4. Remove roast from the oven once the meat thermometer reaches 160 F (71 C). Allow meat to rest in the pan, loosely covered with foil for 20 to 30 minutes.

5. Remove from pan and cut twine away from the roast. Slice and serve.

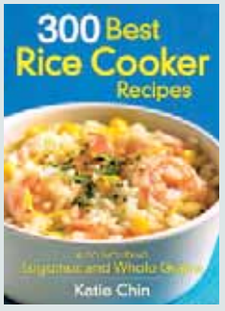
NEWS CANADA/ ALMOND BOARD

Cherry, Almond and Wild-Rice-Stuffed Pork Loin

This recipe serves six to eight. NEWS CANADA

Cookbook of the Week

Rice up your dinner



The recipes in 300 Best Rice Cooker Recipes by Katie Chin are inspired by flavours from around the corner and around the world. They also prove that every type of meal can be prepared in a rice cooker, from appetizers, soups and salads to main dishes, one pot meals and side dishes.

Delicious and time-saving recipes, perfect for busy working families and gourmet cooks alike include: Grits Jambalaya, Roasted Corn and Quinoa Salad, Chocolate Banana Oatmeal, White Chipotle Turkey Chili, Lemony Risotto with Shrimp and more. **METRO**

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WATERFRONT LIVING IN TORONTO
FROM THE MID $200's*

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Living above Lake Ontario

Eau Du Soleil is located right along the waterfront in Humber Bay. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Eau Du Soleil
- **Builder.** Empire Communities
- **Location.** Marine Parade Drive
- **Website.** eaudusoleilcondos.com
- **Sizes.** From 504 to 1,046 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $277,990 to $799,990

The project overview

The newest high-rise from Empire Communities features two towers overlooking Lake Ontario, located right along the Etobicoke waterfront. Rising 66 and 45 storeys high, the condos will take their place in this established community known for its scenic lakefront parks and ample recreation facilities.

Location and transit

Just seconds away from the Gardiner Expressway, providing a quick and convenient route to downtown Toronto. The Mimico GO station is minutes away and TTC light rail and buses are right at your doorstep. Nearby Highway 427 and the QEW provide speedy routes to the north and west.

In the neighbourhood

At Eau Du Soleil, residents will have connections to the water, the city and nature. Located right on the waterfront, you can hike and bike in Humber Bay Park and Palace Pier Park. Residents can enjoy the many restaurants and lounges located along The Queensway.

Building amenities

Sixth floor facilities include a salt water pool and hot tub. The CrossFit training zone is equipped with cardio and weight machines, spin room and a yoga/Pilates studio. There are three theatre rooms, a party room, games room, private dining rooms and outdoor community gardens.

Five-year mortgage rates

FIXED		VARIABLE
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5.24%	CIBC	3.20%
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3.44%	ICICI	3.00%
3.09%	ING	3.00%
5.24%	RBC	3.20%
4.99%	SCOTIA	3.10%
5.24%	TD	3.20%
5.24%	NATIONAL	3.20%
2.83%	BROKER	2.60%

RATES MAY VARY BY PROVINCE. RATESUPERMARKET.CA FOR THE BEST RATES IN YOUR AREA.

Rooftop surfing

The effect of mortgage rule changes

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

When the federal government introduced new regulations for mortgage lending across the country in the summer, we noticed that uncertainty replaced consumer confidence in the new homes industry. We also noticed that the combination of cause and effect triggered a decline in new home sales as purchasers sat waiting to see what would happen to the state of the market.

The decline has so far been observed for three consecutive months, which could be interpreted as a trend.

While the high-rise sector still holds a prominent share of the market — 1,914 sales in October 2012 add up to the fifth-highest October on record — total new home sales point to the second-lowest October we have ever recorded. Meanwhile, year-to-date sales have slipped below the long-term average for the first time this year.

If this trend continues, it will adversely affect job creation in the coming years and, subsequently, restrict the economic growth both locally and provincially.

Take a look around where you are right now. It's pretty likely that a few of those strangers are employed by the building and development industry, whether they work as an engineer, a planner or on a construction site. In fact, this industry is one of the largest employers in the region, creating more than 193,000 jobs in 2011, paying $10.1 billion in wages.

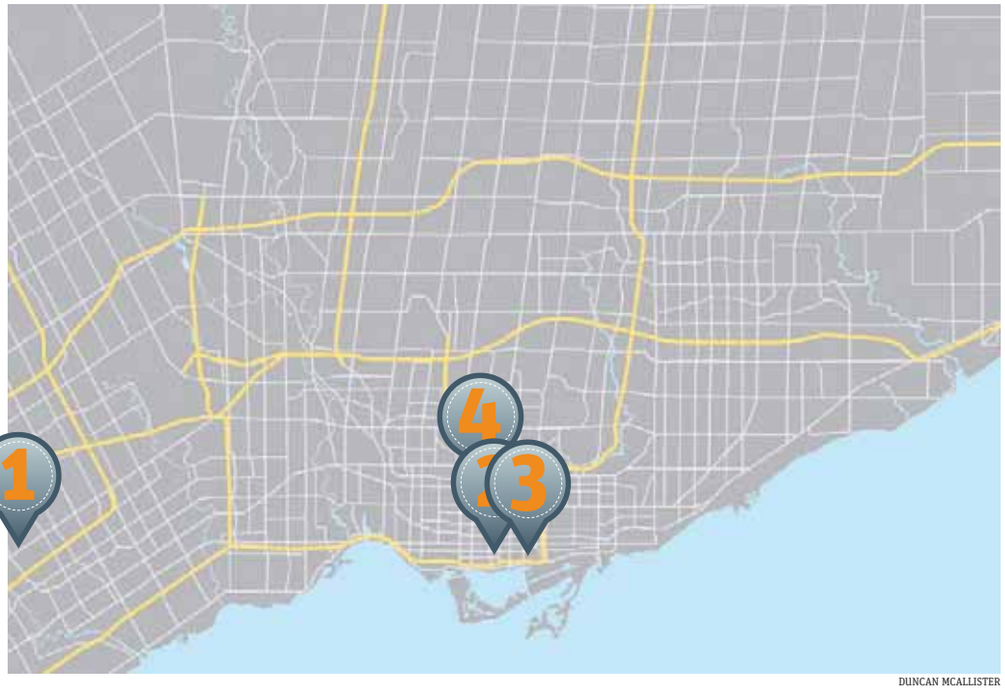
That money is then pumped back into our economy through the purchase of groceries, clothing and transportation, making building and development a key contributor to economic growth.

It's worth pointing out that the GTA is one of the fastest-growing regions in North America, with 100,000 new residents choosing to move here every year. Our industry has calculated that we must build approximately 40,000 new homes each year to accommodate this population growth.

With limited construction of new rental properties, new residents of the GTA also rely on the condominium market for quality, affordable rental housing options. It is important to understand the stability and resilience of the new homes industry, particularly the high-rise sector, which is still the fourth-highest on record as of the end of October.

Most importantly, however, is that condos offer affordable means to homeownership, particularly for first-time homebuyers who receive some great government incentives with their new home purchases.

What's hot on the condo market



DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. Mississauga

Grand Opening: HOT Condos, 4635 Metcalfe Ave., Mississauga. Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-774-2218 OR VISIT HOTCONDOMINIUMS.COM

2. Downtown

Open House, Downtown Townhouse, two bedrooms plus den, head over to 77 Lombard St., Dec. 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-489-2121

3. Distillery District

Grand Opening: Toronto Christmas Market 2012 at the Historic Distillery District condos, 9 Trinity St., Nov. 30. Runs until Dec. 16.

CONTACT: VISIT TORONTOCHRISTMASMARKET.COM

4. Yorkville

New Releases: Chaz downtown condos, 101 Yorkville Ave., Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CONTACT: CALL 416-922-0045 OR VISIT CHAZYORKVILLE.COM

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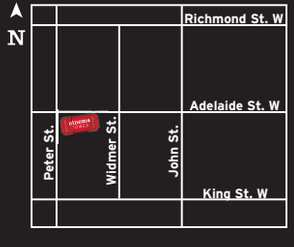

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325 Adelaide Street West, Toronto
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Actual construction photo

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The balcony might be the biggest room in your condo — use it well

Outdoor space. With condo units shrinking, balconies seem to be getting bigger

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

There was a time when a high-rise balcony was considered a nice-to-have — a brief respite from a stuffy kitchen for a breath of air and maybe a bit of a view.

It was a thin ledge to park your bike and maybe a couple of plastic chairs. Not to mention that a barbecue was outright forbidden.

Times have changed, and outdoor space is considered an important component of the amenity package, as developers and condo purchasers alike have realized the benefits of the modern condo balcony.

As condo units become smaller, balconies, it would seem, are growing bigger. Now typically as much as six feet deep or more, they've become an extension of your suite.

Newer buildings are even supplying gas hookups and watering hoses, encouraging people to take it outside.

A whole industry has sprung up around outdoor balconies, patios, terraces and rooftops.

Now you have so many choices of what to do with that space. Specialty shops provide a whole range of products: Outdoor dining furniture, couches and lounge chairs, waterproof TV sets and wireless speakers, storage units, planters, "sunbrellas", space heaters and even fireplaces.

Stylish and comfortable, the new breed of furniture can be left outdoors all winter long. Settings made by Woodards in Florida can handle the heat and humidity of the Everglades, and can handle Canadian winters too, says designer Kim Jones.

Her company, Design Solutions, has outfitted the rooftop patio at The Shores condominiums, a Fernbrook-Cityzen project in Oakville.

"I personally brought up some Woodard furniture from Florida. They get through the Toronto winter no problem. I've had mine sitting outside now for three years."

Toronto's condoterraces.com specializes in outdoor floor coverings including such exotic woods and finishes as Ipe, Jatoba, Cedar, Cumaru, Tigerwood, Azek, Gossen and TimberTech. These materials can be applied right over concrete to transform your balcony into a deck.

Even in this chilly weather, condo dwellers can still take advantage of the great outdoors. Even though condo regulations prohibit residents from burning actual wood on balconies, outdoor fireplaces are becoming a new trend.

"The ethanol fireplaces are fabulous, although they don't put out a lot of heat," explains Jones. "But you can buy very inexpensively nowadays, these heaters, so you can have the beauty of the ethanol fireplace and then you have a heater that stands over top of you that you can plug in, so you have the warmth and it is quite comfortable."

Outdoor table and chairs set by Woodards of Florida at the rooftop patio of The Shores condos. KIM JONES

From the Indoor Gardener

Vertical gardening a hit

Sky-high gardening has always been a hit with condo dwellers.

The host of HGTV's Indoor Gardener, Denis Flanagan says that vertical gardening is very trendy right now.

"Most people have limited space on condo balconies or terraces and using things like trellises, like obelisks, like hanging plants, will optimize the amount of space that you've got," he advises. "There's all sorts of wonderful selections now for climbing things that need a support, that give you sometimes up to eight, 10 feet of colour on a balcony."

Viva Designs two-seater and single lounge from Fiber Living in Toronto on display at the 2012 Home and Garden Show. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

Hanging garden by Urban Forest Planter. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

Jigsaw lamps by Mr. Lamp Shops. DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

Required notes on closing

I was supposed to sell my condo last week and my lawyer was informed by the other lawyer representing the purchaser that there were items on the title that needed to be removed before they would consider closing.

I had a long talk with my lawyer, who clearly stated that none of the issues raised by the purchaser's lawyer were valid points to avoid closing a transaction.

The issues raised by the lawyer were that there were agreements registered on the title that she would not accept because the title was not clear.

My lawyer disagreed but in the end, there was no money on closing day. What would you suggest?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

It appears as though your purchaser was trying to wiggle out of the deal and using their lawyer to attempt to do so.

Once a transaction is firm, the only way a purchaser can get out of the deal without serious repercussions is to find a valid problem with the title to the property.

The lawyer must have raised a number of questions about old registrations on title that cover all the units in the building.

These agreements/registrations cannot be removed by one owner without the entire condominium agreeing.

It appears as though the purchaser's lawyer was blowing smoke.

You and your counsel need to threaten loss of the deposit and potential damages because of their inability to close the transaction.

Hopefully, your solicitor has responded in such a manner.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website at cowanlaw.ca

Everlasting beauties: Choosing an artificial Christmas tree

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Choosing an artificial Christmas tree for your home can be an easy alternative to the delivery, set-up, care and messy removal involved in getting a real one. They're also fireproof, which makes them a favourite for apartment and condo dwellers who may not be able to have the real thing.

Artificial trees now come with long-lasting lights, realistic branches and designer touches like snow, ice crystals and pine cones.

Price

Artificial Christmas trees cost $79 to $1,200 depending on height, the number of lights, amount of branches and the quality of construction. On average, a good tree will costs $30 to $50 for each linear foot of the tree's height.

Size

Match the size of a tree to your ceiling's height and reduce the size by six inches.

For example, if you have an eight-foot ceiling, choose a tree that is 7 1/2 feet in height. In rooms with exceptionally high ceilings, choose a tree that is at least two-thirds of the ceiling's height. Anything shorter will look dwarfed in the room.

Also consider the diameter at the bottom of the tree. This will determine how much floor space you will be taking up once the tree is assembled.

If space is at a premium, then consider a slim tree where the diameter of the base is less than four feet.

Lights

A quality tree will have 75 to 100 lights for each foot of the tree's height.

Look for features like floor step pedals to make turning the lights on and off easier and a continuous light source, meaning if one bulb burns out or is removed, the other lights will continue to work.

Most artificial trees come prelit with clear/warm white lights. If you want trendy coloured lights instead, simply add them to the tree and don't plug in the clear pre-wired ones. A great way to change the look of your tree from year to year is with the investment of some new coloured lights.

Winner of the most realistic-looking artificial tree is the 7 1/2 inch Snowy Fir Tree from The Martha Stewart Collection. $279, homedepot.ca.

Branches/tips

The more branches and tips on the tree, the fuller it will look and the more room you'll have to hang decorations.

Look for exceptional details like pine cones, a variety of baby-looking branch tips/needles, spacing between the branch layers of less than eight to 10 inches. This will give the tree a full, realistic look.

You can also wire on real pine cones and add fresh greenery to the tree for a lush look.

In extra tall spaces, the tree must reach at least half of the ceiling's height. Inset: A quality everlasting tree will have details like a variety of greens, pinecones, many tips and will be pre-lit for convenience. PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Cleaning

Scrub the glass, not the art

Why does it matter when you clean glass on a picture frame hanging on the wall that you spray your cloth to clean the glass, rather than spraying the glass directly, then using your cloth to clean the glass? I don't see any difference.

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Well firstly, from a cleaning perspective, you're cleaning the glass either way. However, the reason it is best practice to always spray your cloth then wipe the glass is two-fold.

Firstly, you use less cleaning product.

Remember, I am always an advocate for less is more and less cleaning solution is generally a good thing.

But the second reason to spray the cloth is that when you spray the liquid on the glass, it starts to run down the glass.

It's easy to use too much liquid. The excess liquid that you are unable to catch goes down the glass inside the frame and ultimately bleeds on the art, thus damaging the art or the matting that surrounds the art.

If you spray the glass directly, it can run down to the frame and damage the art. ISTOCK IMAGES

Maximize your green when decorating this season

How do I decorate for a green Christmas?

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Christmas decor is big business! North Americans spend upwards of $18 billion a year on seasonal decorations. And while I urge you to opt out and take a DIY approach to creating a festive atmosphere, it does equate to an awful lot of buying power!

So this season, if you are making purchases, make sure you're capitalizing on that buying power by investing in a green Christmas.

Christmas Lights

Christmas lights are a must for many, but make sure you use electricity sparingly. LED lights are now the standard. If you haven't adopted them yet, please do! This is one area where it's greenest to recycle the old and buy the new.

Maximize your green by using a timer to light up those LED lights only during prime hours.

Choose Reusable & Natural Materials

There is nothing festive about filling your home with toxic materials, like BPA- or PVC-laden plastics. And there's nothing merry about the production process used to create plastic decor. Aside from plastic bobbles, the worst offenders are tinsel and artificial snow — you know, the aerosol spray for windows.

Invest instead in items made from long-lasting, non-toxic materials like wood, ceramics and felt. These will bring joy year after year.

Hit a Craft Fair

Craft fairs are making a comeback, and for good reason. Brimming with sustainable local cheer, vendors and buyers alike seek to celebrate in style. Local artisans often find innovative ways to create using up-cycled items, natural materials and handmade methods.

I always find a gem to add to the tree and leave with plenty of inspiration for our own homemade items.

Less Is More

The greatest thing you can do to keep your holiday decor green is to take a less-is-more approach. Get swept up in the holiday spirit, but don't get swept up in the over-consumptive need to buy. A few treasured items can go a long way toward creating holidays that celebrate kindness, gratitude and family.

Less is more! Don't get too swept up in the need to buy. ISTOCK IMAGES

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidsuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG

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7 Ways to get your holiday glow on

Say no to traditional tinsel and lights and choose sparkling decor and twinkling touches for your winter wonderland

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

1

DwellStudio's slanted tea light candle holders stand up to wintery winds. $248 (set of three), dwellstudio.com

2

When you're a reindeer this sparkly, there are plenty of reasons to bust a move. $40 each, JCPenny

3

If you can't decorate a real-deal evergreen, Restoration Hardware's snow-dusted Winter Wonderland trees are an enchanting consolation prize. $149 to $189, restorationhardware.com

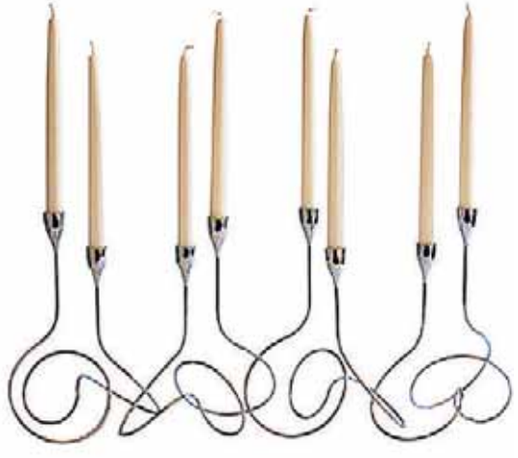
4

Frosted votives nest in lichen moss for Olive & Cocoa's charming botanic candle boxes. $44 each, two for $74, oliveandcocoa.com

5

Pottery Barn Kids' light-up snowflakes add a little magic to the air. $38 to $55, potterybarnkids.com

6



Inspired by the Fibonacci curve, these curious candelabras from Black + Blum can link together to create quite the centrepiece. $30 per two-candle piece, black-blum.com

7

Restoration Hardware's starry lights are strung along bendable copper wire and come with a battery pack, meaning you can elegantly wrap them around mirrors, wreaths, planters or anything that needs a little sparkle. $15 to $99, restorationhardware.com

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In this new insider real-estate series, the four owner-operators of Conservatory Group — Libfeld brothers Sheldon, Mark, Jay and Corey — will share their first-person insights on the housing market in the Greater Toronto Area. The Markham-based, family-owned company has been building homes for Torontonians for more than 50 years.

The future of housing in the GTA

Small is beautiful, large is limited

Kevin Kelly

Conservatory Group's Libfeld brothers, left to right: Corey, Jay, Mark and Sheldon

In this concluding article, the Libfelds offer their take on the future of housing trends in the GTA.

1. Smaller lots "In the last decade, the development process has become extremely tortuous," says Sheldon Libfeld, who is in charge of development and finance at the Conservatory Group. "While it used to take only two or three years to bring a building lot to the market, today it takes almost three times as long. Infrastructure issues, new regulations and municipal approvals have become very complex, and levies — the taxes that municipalities charge developers to pay for community services — have more than doubled. That means that the price of a lot today is very expensive."

All these have resulted in a trend towards smaller lots. "Because costs are so high," says Mark Libfeld, responsible for the Conservatory Group's low-rise division "we're seeing smaller lots, along with semis and townhouses — a trend that will continue."

2. Infill sites Another trend is the shift away from the old post-war-era suburban communities to smaller infill sites. "We've seen this trend with high-rise since the 1990s, and it's continuing today," says Jay Libfeld, director of the Conservatory Group's high-rise division. "What makes a high-rise site desirable is, first and foremost, a central location, and that means a location where the community is already well established."

This new housing form could be high-rise or higher-density low-rise. "In Oakdale Village in North York," says Corey Libfeld, director of customer care and the Conservatory Group's Home Décor Centre in Thornhill. "We purchased the old Workers' Compensation Board site and converted it into a mix of detached homes, link homes and townhouses, plus there's still a site for a small apartment building for seniors."

This kind of mixed-density residential site is a model for future development, says Corey Libfeld. The Conservatory Group is also building higher-density low-rise infill communities in Upper Beach Village at Main and Danforth in Toronto and in Weston Village at Sheppard and Weston Rd. in North York.

3. Smaller homes, smaller suites Mark Libfeld notes how the trend towards smaller houses keeps prices affordable to consumers. "At the Conservatory Group, we've pioneered some innovative ways to bring value to the consumer — for example, finishing the lower basement level, which increases livable space by up to 50 per cent but without a significant impact on cost," he says. "The homebuyer is looking for value today and our commitment is to provide it."

Jay Libfeld sees the same trend in high-rise. "Certainly over the last decade, average suite sizes have decreased. In the 1990s, we used to build condominiums with an average suite size of 1,000 sq. ft. or more; today that number is closer to 700 sq. ft. In cities like Paris, New York and London, a typical starter condominium may be only 400 sq. ft. or even less."

Smaller homes and suites present a particularly challenging décor environment for the homeowner, and Corey Libfeld has designed the Conservatory Group's Home Décor Centre to meet that challenge. "We're set up to make the most of any space, and we are especially adept at maximizing spaciousness in small areas by helping the homeowner choose finishes that make the smaller space feel larger."

4. Large still possible "Mansion-style homes will remain a custom undertaking," says Sheldon Libfeld. "There is still a large number of people who want a bigger move-up home in the suburbs. So we always try to incorporate a small number of larger lots — 45, 50 or 60 ft. wide — in smaller enclaves within our communities to satisfy this demand. We have 50-ft. lots in our Main Street community in Stouffville and 45-ft. designs in our Oakdale community."

Another trend is to maximize value by putting a large home on a smaller lot. "In our Dunvegan community, we have homes over 4,000 sq. ft. in size on 40-ft. lots that incorporate every possible amenity imaginable," says Corey Libfeld. "It's a designer's paradise!"

The same trend is visible in high-rise, says Jay Libfeld. "As single-family homes become more expensive, homebuyers will turn to high-rise as a less expensive alternative. Today families are being accommodated with larger three-bedroom suites and amenities such as childcare facilities. In our Infinity community, for example, we've built a Montessori centre for children, and we have a good selection of family-designed suites available."

We'd like to hear from you. Please write to us at cginfo@conservatorygroup.com.

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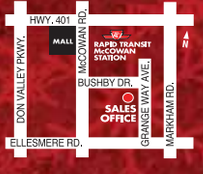

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THE REAL STATE of REAL ESTATE

THE CONSERVATORY® GROUP
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This recipe makes five dozen drops. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Welcome the cookie season with tasty Chocolate-Dipped Coconut Meringue Drops

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with cooking spray and dust with flour, shaking off the excess.

2. In a food processor, pulse the cranberries until finely chopped. Set aside.

3. Spread the coconut on a third baking sheet or in a roasting pan. Bake on the oven's middle shelf until golden, about 5 minutes. Let cool. Reduce the oven to 275 F.

4. Once the coconut has cooled, in a medium bowl combine it with the cranberries.

5. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the egg whites with the salt, cream of tartar and vanilla until they form soft peaks. Add the sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Fold in the coconut cranberry mixture. Drop rounded tablespoons of the batter, 1 inch apart, on the prepared baking sheets.

6. Bake for 25 minutes, or until the meringue drops are beige (they will be soft at the centre). Put the sheet pans on cooling racks and let the meringue drops cool completely.

7. Bring a small saucepan of water to a gentle simmer. Set a larger stainless bowl over the saucepan, then add the chocolate. Heat the chocolate, stirring occasionally, until melted. One at a time, dip the bottoms of the cookies into the chocolate, then set chocolate side up on parchment to cool. To set the chocolate faster, the cookies can be refrigerated.

8. Store the cookies in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to 1 week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON OF PUBLIC TELEVISION'S SARA'S WEEKNIGHT MEALS**

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 cups unsweetened shredded coconut
- 4 large egg whites, room temperature
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup sugar
- 6 oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped

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Triple-Ginger Cranberry Bars. An intoxicating combo for the holidays

1. In small bowl or glass, combine the cranberries and liqueur. Cover and let soak overnight.

2. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 350 F. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with cooking spray, then line it with parchment paper.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the brown sugar, butter and salt until light and fluffy. With the mixer running, add the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between each addition.

4. Stir in the flour, fresh ginger, ground ginger and the soaked cranberries (they should have completely absorbed the liqueur).

5. Spread the mixture into the prepared baking pan. Sprinkle the top with the chopped crystallized ginger and the slivered almonds. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until light golden brown and slightly firm to the touch. Let cool completely in the pan, then cut into 24 bars. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to a week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup Saint Germain elder flower liqueur
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 12 tbsp (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temp
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp dry ground ginger
- 1/2 cup chopped crystallized ginger
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds

Holiday craft and baking

Snowman and Santa: The final product. SUBMITTED

YOU'VE GOT THE COOKIES — NOW PRESENT THEM IN STYLE

STEVEN AND CHRIS RETURN WITH NEW EPISODES JAN. 7 ON CBC. THEIR ROSTER OF EXPERTS DELIVER IDEAS AND ADVICE ON TOPICS INCLUDING HOME DECOR, FOOD AND ENTERTAINING, HEALTH AND FITNESS AND MORE.

In this fun family holiday DIY, Steven shows us that you can give Christmas cookies in style.

Simple pastry boxes are transformed into festive sculptures fit to house any holiday treat!

Directions

Snowman:
1. Stack three white pastry boxes one on top of the other.
2. Add button detailing for some three dimensional interest and to create eyes and a smile for your snowman.
3. Use some birch bark scrap to create a nose.
4. Bend and wrap wire into the shape of a top hat and secure it using a dot of hot glue.
5. Insert twigs with berries as arms for your snowman. (Note: You may also have to secure them with a dot of hot glue.)
6 Add some cookies and you are ready to go!

Santa:
1. Stack red boxes one on top of the other.
2. Add buttons and ribbon detailing to create Santa's face.
3. The small hat on Santa's head was sold as a doggy Christmas hat at the dollar store.
4. Ribbon and birch bark finished off Santa's look, creating his signature belt.
5. Put some cookies in his belly and give this fun gift to anyone!

SAVOUR THE FLAVOUR OF THE EPICUREAN

MONARCH CONDO LOCATED IN HEART OF SOUTH KINGSWAY

Monarch is pleased to announce the grand opening of The Epicurean condominium in the South Kingsway on Dec 1. As Canada's oldest and most experienced home builder, Monarch has built quality homes for more than 95 years, with more than 10,000 homes and 29 condo projects that families have been proud to call home.

Suites feature open concept floor plans, offering up to two bedrooms and dens with balconies or terraces opening onto outdoor entertaining areas. The building is ideally located in this stylish neighbourhood and is a perfect fit for homebuyers' palettes and lifestyles starting from the $300,000s.

The Epicurean is located in the heart of South Kingsway, on the corner of Prince Edward Avenue and Dundas Street.

"The real story here is the location," says Mirella Sarrapochiello, director of marketing for Monarch highrise.

CONTRIBUTED

"We have developed a condominium that not only suits the location but will appeal to a diverse crowd, connecting it to some of the best restaurants and speciality shops in the area. Almost everything anyone could want is either within walking distance or an easy commute. We have fashioned the suites and amenity spaces after the city's finest chefs."

The eight-storey boutique-style condo, designed by Graziani & Corazza, offers all the elements for getting together with family and friends. Guests can savour the flavour of their favourite foods with the Chef's Table Demo Kitchen in the designer decorated special occasion party room, which opens onto a private outdoor area with barbecue facilities and an organic herb garden.

The "Vintage Lounge" will be a popular gathering spot for private wine tasting events with its chic décor.

CONTRIBUTED

Don't miss your opportunity to be part of the grand opening event on Dec. 1 at noon. For a limited time only, customers can enjoy site specific price and value in celebration of Monarch's grand opening and celebration of 95 years. The Epicurean sales centre is located at 4195 Dundas St. W. (entrance on Prince Edward Drive) or call 416-495-3530.

The Monarch success story is a tribute to its sterling reputation for more than 95 years, excelling in service and customer commitment. Monarch was awarded the prestigious Home Builder of the Year title for 2010, presented by the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). For more information, visit monarchgroup.net.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING MONARCH

Buying your first home: A major life milestone

Are you a property virgin? Your real estate goals could be closer than you think

EMMA GODMERE
life@metronews.ca

Owning your first home is a major milestone. Buying property is likely one of the first significant investments you'll ever make — and it's an investment that you get to enjoy while it appreciates.

For young people in particular, the idea of getting a mortgage can feel like an insurmountable obstacle amid the reality of student and consumer debt, but your real estate goals don't have to be as far away as you think.

"You can never start too early," says Mark Salerno, corporate representative with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "If you start early enough, you're going to know the degree of challenge that you're going to have."

Salerno suggests first meeting with your bank to assess what kind of mortgage you might qualify for. Some hopeful homeowners may need to address debt and income concerns before taking the plunge, but banks and credit counselling agencies can help you become a better mortgage candidate.

If you're given the green light, the next task is finding a realtor.

Realtors will be able to shed light on market conditions, trends and prices, and help you comb through real estate listings.

A good place to start is with the Canadian Real Estate Association, which can link you to a realtor in your area. Realtors can also connect you to other important individuals like home inspectors and help negotiate a deal when you're ready to buy.

Some financial analysts may suggest renting a home is a better long-term approach, but while Salerno agrees it can be the more affordable option, he emphasizes the benefits of investing in your own piece of real estate are worth the purchase.

"The market, on average, over time appreciates and you then have a means to build equity in your home," he says. "If you're in a renting situation, you're paying a mortgage — but it's your landlord's mortgage."

Three things to consider when looking for a new home

- Do you want a new home or a resale home? New homes will offer more up-to-date features, but can incur extra costs like GST or HST, for which there's no rebate if the house is more than $450,000. Resale homes may need renovations, but are most likely surrounded by established neighbourhoods.
- Is the neighbourhood sustainable? A sustainable neighbourhood ideally offers affordable homes, access to public transit, and proximity to schools, shops and work. Residents in sustainable neighbourhoods should also be able to choose healthier transportation options, like walking and cycling.
- How much space do you need when it comes to bedrooms, bathrooms, storage, and outdoor areas? The CMHC recommends buying a home that meets most of your projected needs for the next five to 10 years.

Start sharing

This is the fourth in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

How did you find your first apartment? Any tips you'd like to share? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Buying your first home doesn't have to be scary. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Make your houseguests feel welcome

Full house. For many, the holiday season means some overnight guests

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News in New York City

Not all of us have the luxury of a guest bedroom, but regardless, we want our loved ones to feel comfortable when they stay over. A few tips to make them feel like they're at a cozier Four Seasons.

Don't wait for them to ask
Set out a towel and some small luxuries — like an eye mask or those little bottles of fancy body wash and lotion you swiped from your last hotel stay — on the foot of their makeshift bed.

Also, write down your internet password so they can log on to your computer without feeling like a burden.

Find them a place
Before your out-of-town visitors arrive, designate a space that will be just theirs.

Clear the area so that when they get there, they have a place to settle into.

This might involve setting up the air mattress in advance, clearing out a drawer for their things, making some room in your own closet or investing in a luggage rack to prop up their suitcase.

Give them a tour
Even if you live in a teeny, tiny apartment, show your guests around.

Take them to the kitchen and point out the correct cabinets for glasses, etc. and how to use the coffee maker.

Then show them the snacks — like their favorite flavour of Haagen-Dazs — you've stocked up on, and invite them to help themselves.

The all-important nightstand
A few touches can make even sleeping on your couch feel like a retreat.

Place a table next to their bed with the following key items: A lamp in case they want to read before bed, some magazines, a book you like and a carafe with water.

Go the extra mile
To really give your guests the royal treatment, make a beautiful bed.

Iron their sheets for that crisp, fresh feel and include both a lighter cover and heavier blanket to give them options.

Put out fresh cut flowers (the ones from the bodega work just fine) and finish things off with a chocolate on their pillow.

Go the extra mile for your guests and give them a space that will be just theirs. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Need more space for your guests?

With cold weather upon us, homeowners may wonder whether they have enough space to accommodate their families, pets and holiday guests all winter long. Additions can be notoriously time-consuming and costly, but that doesn't mean you have to feel cramped in your current space. To add livable square footage to your existing home, look to a space you may not be using to its full potential — the basement.

Walls
A fresh coat of paint is widely accepted as one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to spruce up the appearance of any space. However, choosing the right paint for the job is just as important as the colour. Basement walls are more prone to moisture, mold and mildew damage, so the better paint companies have developed protective coatings.

Flooring
It may seem a daunting task, but updating your basement floor covering will do wonders to improve the look of this space and make it a cozy, usable area.

If you are working on a budget, you may also look at today's laminate and vinyl tile options, which are available in a wide variety of finishes and styles. Some even imitate the popular look of hardwood and luxurious stone. Carpeting is also a great option to make a space cozier, but be sure to have an adequate sub-floor in place to avoid water damage and replacement down the road.

Furniture
Even if you don't have the budget to invest in new furniture, you can easily make old pieces or garage sale finds look like new. Sand and refinish wooden pieces, or paint them a matte colour for a more modern look. Re-upholster an old sofa or simply purchase a furniture slipcover for an instant fix. Re-cover old chair and couch cushions and add decorative pillows and throws for a stylish flair. NEWS CANADA

How are the acoustics in your home?

DIY ideas. Install wall panelling in your man cave so music and speech becomes amplified and clear

Any home theatre or rock and roll sanctuary can be improved by updating the acoustics of the room.

An easy way to do this yourself is to add wall panelling — or sound absorption panels — that will improve acoustics in the room by reducing noise levels and eliminating echoes.

This is just one way to create a refuge to enjoy what you love, something contractor Jason Cameron and former NFL player Tony Siragusa do every week on Man Caves. They offer amazing ideas to help homeowners everywhere construct their own personal hangouts.

Step 1: Make a plan

Think about the size and layout of your room, including the placement of any speakers, and determine how many panels will be required. Keep in mind it's generally advised to install a panel every 12 inches throughout the room. Consider if you'd like your panels to be the same size, or a range of sizes depending on your style and room size.

Step 2: Materials and assembly

The core material of the panel will need to be sound-absorbing insulation that is two inches thick, cut down to the size of panels you've decided to use. This insulation will then need a wood frame in order to secure it and hang on the wall. An inexpensive way to make this frame is by using furring strips in a size large enough to lay flat with the insulation, around two inches thick. Cut them to the size of your insulation panel, and secure the corners of each frame with wood glue. Spray adhesive to the interior of the frame and exterior edge of the insulation panel in order to secure both materials together. Place the insulation inside the frame. Allow 24 hours for both glues to dry.

Step 3: Cover and decorate

Use a sound-transparent fabric to cover your panel. Thick fabrics like vinyl or leather will reflect the sound and make the panel redundant. Instead, choose a breathable fabric like cotton or burlap that will allow the sound to travel into the insulation and be absorbed. This is also an opportunity to choose a colour or design that complements your room. To cover your panel, stretch the fabric around the frame and staple on the back every three inches, neatly folding each corner. Trim the excess fabric and spray the remaining with adhesive so it lays flat.

Step 4: Mount the panels

Mount your panels as you would a heavy piece of artwork. Both D-ring hangers and impaling clips are recommended, but use your own judgment and precautions for your room and walls.

MAN CAVES AIRS FRIDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA

Former NFL player Tony Siragusa, left, with contractor Jason Cameron. HANDOUT

Tips on how to buy or sell your home like a pro

Brothers Jonathan and Drew Scott see beyond linoleum floors and chipping paint to help couples transform dingy spaces into their dream homes and help buyers and sellers get the most for their money on their HGTV shows Property Brothers and Buying & Selling.

The brothers — Jonathan's a contractor and Drew's a real estate agent — give us their tips for smooth real estate transactions.

FOUR TIPS FOR BUYING

1. Scope out the scene

Research the neighbourhood you're looking in. It's important to know what comparable homes are selling for and the cost of any special features you really want, such as a pool or large backyard.

2. Balance your checkbook

Before even scanning home listings or talking to a broker, get your finances in order. Figure out your income, assets and debt so you know what you can afford.

3. Dream big

Jonathan asks: "This is going to be your dream home, so why not get everything you want?"

Make a detailed wish list for your home, including size and features. Then, mark which items you could realistically live without and which are must-haves so you know what's non-negotiable when you're out with a broker.

4. Don't settle

Don't ignore the fact that your house is next to a train track just because you like a certain feature. Don't ignore anything that could affect resale value.

FOUR TIPS FOR SELLING

1. Work with the pros

Don't try to do this alone. Use a realtor who knows the community, market value and how to negotiate. You want the best price, after all.

2. Stage it right

When listing your home, make an effort to make it look its best. De-clutter, depersonalize, fix any minor repairs and add some lights. "There are many inexpensive things that can make a world of a difference," says Jonathan.

3. Disclose everything

If you're selling your house and you don't disclose a known issue, you're setting yourself up for a lawsuit.

4. Leave emotions aside

It's your home: Of course you think it's worth top-dollar. But keep emotions out when considering an offer — it's one of the big reasons people lose money in real estate. Remember: Real estate is an investment, and you should make decisions in a business frame of mind.

Brothers Jonathan, left, and Drew Scott HANDOUT

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Canada Ontario TORONTO

SPORTS 4

Billion-dollar Buds

Franchise worth. Leafs first hockey team to crack $1 billion in value according to Forbes, but bang for buck still lacking

Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf celebrates a goal with teammates during a game against the Montreal Canadiens at Air Canada Centre last October. CLAUS ANDERSON/GETTY IMAGES FILE

While the Toronto Maple Leafs became the first hockey team to be valued at $1 billion by Forbes.com, the influential magazine concluded the fabled franchise got the "worst" value for the buck and said the NHL would be better off with increased revenue sharing.

The jump in value of the Maple Leafs — to $1 billion US from the magazine's estimate of $521 million last year — is based in large part on the sale of 75 per cent of the team to Rogers Communications and BCE Inc. and estimated revenues of $200 million. The telecoms paid $1.32 billion Cdn. for the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan share of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

"I suppose we should be flattered that we're on the top of the list, but we've no idea where they get their numbers," said MLSE president Tom Anselmi.

"The other statistic (worst value) is probably a reflection of the fact we haven't been in the playoffs in too many years. If we get back in the playoffs, we'll start climbing that list."

Forbes valued MLSE — which includes the Raptors, Marlies, Toronto FC and the Air Canada Centre among other holdings — at $2.05 billion US.

What's remarkable to Brian Cooper, a former MLSE executive and now president of S&E Sponsorship Group, is that the value of the Leafs continues to grow despite a lack of success.

"If it turned around, from merchandising, from content value, from all those ancillary dollars," the value could be much greater, Cooper said.

The New York Rangers are the second-most valuable team — jumping to $750 million.

The Leafs ranked dead last in value for the buck because while the team "has ranked among the top 12 in player costs in five of the last seven seasons, it failed to make the playoffs even once in that time," said the magazine. The San Jose Sharks were named the best team for the buck thanks to successful regular seasons, deep playoff runs and lower-than-average team salaries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Three's company

The sport's three most profitable teams — the Maple Leafs (with estimated operating income at $81.9 million), Rangers ($74 million), Canadiens ($51.6 million) — accounted for 83 per cent of the league's operating income, while 13 of 30 teams lost money, before non-cash expenses and interest payments.

By the numbers

$12.7M

Forbes said Sidney Crosby was the highest-paid player — including endorsements — at $12.7 million a year.

Both sides right in NHL lockout?

It's a good thing U.S. federal mediators aren't seeking to determine right and wrong while meeting with the NHL and NHL Players' Association this week.

According to sports management professor Aubrey Kent of Temple University, both sides have a valid reason to claim that they are in the right when it comes to their ongoing labour dispute.

"For me, the whole issue comes down to perspective," Kent said Wednesday in an interview. "Players feel as though they're being bullied and strong-armed and having things taken away — I can see that that's a legitimate perspective. Owners feel from a dollar-value perspective that the next seven years they've offered would be far more lucrative than the previous seven years were, even as good as that was.

"And if you crunch the numbers, that's actually true as well."

No wonder the sides remain so entrenched in their positions.

They met separately with mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney on Wednesday afternoon at an undisclosed location. The non-binding sessions were intended to try and help the sides find some common ground.

The last move at the bargaining table came from the NHLPA, which presented a new offer last week that moved within $182 million of the league over a five-year deal. Despite that, commissioner Gary Bettman said they remained "far apart." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Both sides feel they can get a better deal by waiting it out, but my view is that time only helps owners in these negotiations."

Temple University sports management professor Aubrey Kent

Mounting losses

Losses are piling up for everyone associated with the NHL lockout.

- Players are scheduled to miss their fourth paycheques on Friday while owners have already seen two months' worth of games go by the wayside.
- It's conceivable another 10 days could pass before formal talks resume because key negotiators have full agendas next week.

Payne has plan to ease suffering of Toronto FC

MLS. Toronto FC's new hire hopes to bring his winning history to a struggling team that is still in search of their first playoff spot

Kevin Payne is introduced as Toronto FC's new president and general manager at a news conference on Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kevin Payne wasn't going to wear his MLS championship ring — he has four — to his Toronto FC introduction. The former D.C. United boss, who routinely wears one of his rings, changed his mind on the advice of wife Pam.

Payne, 59, wore his 2004 championship ring to the news conference at BMO Field.

The playoffs, let alone a championship, have seemed a galaxy away for Toronto FC. But Payne brings hope, as well as championship baubles.

"We found the right guy," said Tom Anselmi, president and COO of Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment.

Anselmi, of course, has said similar before. Toronto is on its seventh coach in six years. Payne, however, represents Toronto FC's first president. He becomes the soccer team's equivalent to the Leafs' Brian Burke and the Raptors' Bryan Colangelo.

And he brings a stellar pedigree to the job, a reputation that he lived up in an accomplished, polished performance in his introduction to local media.

"His knowledge, his persona off the field, his persona around the building — not only with the highest of the highs but the lowest of the lows — he appreciates what it takes to be a championship team," said Mariner. "And what type of people you need, whether it's the president or whether it's somebody who clears up after the players are gone.

"I think it's probably THE best signing that we'll make," said head coach Paul Mariner, who watched the news conference from the front row.

Until his resignation as president and CEO on Tuesday, Payne had spent 17 years at D.C. United — helping the franchise find its feet in time for the debut MLS season in 1996.

Payne joins a franchise that has failed to make the playoffs since its inception in 2007, winning just 45 games over those six seasons.

So, did he fall on his head before accepting the job?

"This is the only job in Major League Soccer for which I would have left D.C.," said Payne.

"I personally love a challenge," he added. "I often talk with people and say 'What's the fun of being the manager of Real Madrid and spending crazy money and just buying the best players?'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This is the only job in Major League Soccer for which I would have left D.C." Kevin Payne, Toronto FC's new president and GM

WHL

Winterhawks coach banned for rest of season

The Western Hockey League suspended Portland Winterhawks head coach and general manager Mike Johnston for the rest of the season Thursday and announced the forfeiture of several draft picks after a series of league violations.

The Winterhawks were also fined $200,000. The disciplinary action was a result of player benefit violations over the past four seasons, the WHL said in a release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

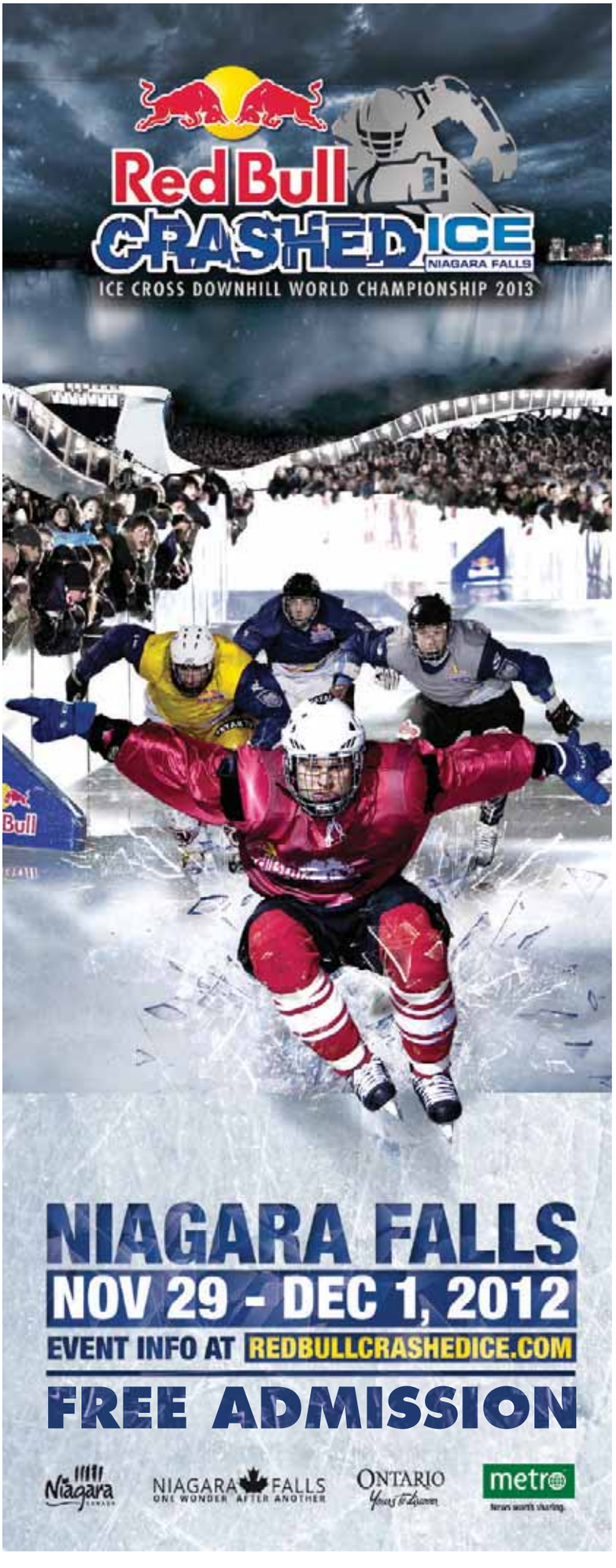
AHL. Red Wings prospect gets caught 'super drunk'

Riley Sheahan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit Red Wings prospect Riley Sheahan faces charges under Michigan's tougher "super drunk" designation following a traffic stop during which police discovered him clad in a Teletubby costume.

According to a Grand Rapids police report obtained by MLive.com, Sheahan twice registered a blood alcohol level of 0.30 per cent following his arrest on Oct. 29. The driving limit is 0.08 per cent and the benchmark for the "super drunk" designation is 0.17 per cent. Police say he was wearing the costume of a purple Teletubby, also known as Tinky Winky, during the stop. The "super drunk" charge carries a penalty of 180 days in jail and possible deportation. Sheahan's next hearing is scheduled for Dec. 13.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NBA

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	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	3	.769	—
Brooklyn	9	4	.692	1
New York	9	4	.692	1
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	21/2
Atlanta	8	4	.667	11/2
Philadelphia	9	6	.600	2
Boston	8	6	.571	21/2
Charlotte	7	6	.538	3
Indiana	7	8	.467	4
Chicago	6	7	.462	4
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Detroit	4	11	.267	7
Cleveland	3	12	.200	8
Toronto	3	12	.200	8
Washington	0	12	.000	91/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	10	2	.833	1/2
San Antonio	12	3	.800	—
Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	1
Golden State	8	6	.571	31/2
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	31/2
Denver	8	7	.533	4
Utah	8	7	.533	4
Houston	7	7	.500	41/2
L.A. Lakers	7	8	.467	5
Dallas	7	8	.467	5
Phoenix	7	8	.467	5
Minnesota	6	7	.462	5
Portland	6	8	.429	51/2
New Orleans	4	9	.308	7
Sacramento	4	10	.286	71/2

Division leaders ranked in top four positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Wednesday's results
San Antonio at Orlando
Portland at Washington
Phoenix at Detroit
Brooklyn at Boston
Charlotte at Atlanta
Dallas at Chicago
Toronto at Memphis
New York at Milwaukee
Houston at Oklahoma City
Utah at New Orleans
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 100 Dallas 98
Phoenix 91 Cleveland 78
Houston 117 Toronto 101
Minnesota 97 Sacramento 89
Indiana 79 L.A. Lakers 77

Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Friday, November 30
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 1
Portland at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Utah at Houston, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Memphis at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

LATE TUESDAY

ROCKETS 117, RAPTORS 101

TORONTO (101)
Bargnani 8-12 2-2 21, Ross 9-17 0-0 19, DeRozan 5-10 2-3 12, Calderon 4-9 0-0 12, Davis 5-6 2-2 12, Valanciunas 5-10 2-3 12, Lowry 3-10 1-1 7, Johnson 2-5 0-1 4, Lucas 1-5 0-0 2, Kleiza 0-1 0-0 0, McGuire 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 42-86 9-12 101.

HOUSTON (117)
Harden 9-19 2-3 24, Patterson 7-14 6-7 22, Parsons 7-13 2-2 18, Lin 7-9 1-2 16, Asik 6-9 1-2 13, Morris 4-6 1-1 11, Cook 2-4 0-0 5, Smith 1-5 3-4 5, Douglas 1-4 0-0 3. Totals 44-83 16-21 117.

Toronto	23	28	28	22 —101
Houston	29	32	38	18 —117

3-Point Goals—Toronto 8-23 (Calderon 4-8, Bargnani 3-4, Ross 1-4, Lowry 0-3, Johnson 0-2, Lucas 0-2). Houston 13-26 (Harden 4-8, Patterson 2-4, Parsons 2-4, Morris 2-3, Douglas 1-3, Cook 1-2, Lin 1-2). **Rebounds—**Toronto 39 (Lowry 8, Johnson 5, Valanciunas 5, Ross 5, Bargnani 4, Davis 4, DeRozan 3, Gray 2, Lucas 2, McGuire 1). Houston 45 (Asik 18, Parsons 7, Harden 6, Patterson 5, Lin 4, Smith 2, Douglas 1, Cook 1, Morris 1). **Assists—**Toronto 25 (Calderon 7). Houston 30 (Harden 12). **Total Fouls—**Toronto 15, Houston 15.
A—12,907. T—2:02

NBA LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	15	138	108	416	27.7
Anthony, NYK	13	121	71	342	26.3
Durant, Okl	15	125	115	389	25.9
James, Mia	13	129	51	327	25.2
Harden, Hou	14	107	109	351	25.1
Westbrook, Okl	15	114	68	317	21.1
Mayo, Dal	15	107	55	312	20.8
Aldridge, Por	13	107	54	268	20.6
Bosh, Mia	13	94	73	263	20.2
Pierce, Bos	14	89	75	281	20.1
Gay, Mem	12	90	41	236	19.7
Lopez, Bro	13	107	36	250	19.2
Lillard, Por	14	94	45	267	19.1
Ellis, Mil	12	89	42	229	19.1
Duncan, SA	15	111	57	280	18.7
Holiday, Phi	15	107	45	278	18.5
Curry, GoS	14	87	50	257	18.4
DeRozan, Tor	15	103	62	274	18.3
Crawford, LAC	14	82	59	252	18.0
Bargnani, Tor	15	99	45	268	17.9
Howard, LAL	15	97	75	269	17.9
Batum, Por	14	87	40	249	17.8
Anderson, NO	13	88	8	230	17.7
Matthews, Por	14	87	38	246	17.6
Parker, SA	14	104	31	245	17.5
Deng, Chi	13	86	40	224	17.2
Monroe, Det	15	100	55	255	17.0
Randolph, Mem	12	80	43	203	16.9
Griffin, LAC	14	94	47	235	16.8
Williams, Bro	13	71	56	217	16.7
Walker, Cha	13	79	51	216	16.6
West, Ind	15	100	48	248	16.5
Jennings, Mil	12	78	25	198	16.5
Cousins, Sac	12	82	32	197	16.4
Jefferson, Uta	15	102	41	246	16.4
Lee, GoS	14	97	36	230	16.4
Sessions, Cha	13	67	72	213	16.4
Dragic, Pho	15	83	51	243	16.2
Paul, LAC	14	77	58	225	16.1
Horford, Atl	11	79	17	175	15.9
Garnett, Bos	14	88	46	222	15.9
Martin, Okl	15	67	65	235	15.7

NCAA

AP TOP 25

FOOTBALL

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Pac-12 Championship
No. 8 Stanford vs. No. 17 UCLA, 8 p.m.
MAC Championship — At Detroit
No. 18 Kent St. vs. No. 19 Northern Ill., 7 p.m.
Saturday's games
No. 7 Kansas St. vs. No. 23 Texas, 8 p.m.
No. 12 Oklahoma at Texas Christian, 12 p.m.
No. 16 Oregon St. vs. Nicholls St., 2:30 p.m.
No. 24 Oklahoma St. at Baylor, 12 p.m.
No. 25 Boise St. at Nevada, 3:30 p.m.
SEC Championship — At Atlanta
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 3 Georgia, 4 p.m.
ACC Championship — At Charlotte, N.C.
No. 13 Florida St. vs. Georgia Tech, 8 p.m.
Big 10 Championship — At Indianapolis
No. 14 Nebraska vs. Wisconsin, 8:15 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Wednesday's results
No. 2 Duke vs. No. 4 Ohio State
No. 9 Arizona vs. Northern Arizona
No. 11 Creighton vs. Boise State
No. 13 Michigan State at Miami
No. 22 Illinois vs. Georgia Tech
No. 24 UNLV vs. UC Irvine
No. 25 New Mexico vs. Mercer
Thursday's games
No. 7 Florida vs. Marquette, 9 p.m.
No. 8 Kentucky at Notre Dame, 7 p.m.
No. 12 Gonzaga vs. Lewis-Clark State, 9 p.m.
Friday's Games
No. 6 Syracuse at Arkansas, 8:30 p.m.
No. 10 Kansas vs. Oregon State at the Sprint Center, Kansas City, Mo., 8 p.m.
No. 20 Georgetown vs. Tennessee, 6:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS CUP

Saturday, Dec. 1 — All Times Eastern
Houston vs. Los Angeles, 4:30 p.m.

UEFA

EUROPA LEAGUE

Wednesday's result
Hapoel Kiryat Shmona 0 Athletic Bilbao 2

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Wednesday's results
Chelsea 0 Fulham 0
Everton 1 Arsenal 1
Southampton 1 Norwich 1
Stoke City 2 Newcastle 1
Swansea 3 West Brom 1
Tottenham 2 Liverpool 1
Manchester United 1 West Ham 0
Wigan 0 Manchester City 2

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday's result
Blackburn 1 Bolton 2

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Manchester	18	9	6	2	1	49	43	21
Worcester	18	9	7	1	1	50	56	20
St. John's	19	9	9	0	1	46	53	19
Portland	18	8	8	1	1	57	61	18
Providence	16	7	8	0	1	33	48	15

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	17	10	3	1	3	59	36	24
Bridgeport	17	10	7	0	0	56	57	20
Connecticut	17	9	7	1	0	58	57	19
Adirondack	17	9	8	0	0	44	47	18
Albany	16	4	7	0	5	37	49	13

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	17	12	3	1	1	65	42	26
Binghamton	16	10	4	1	1	45	38	22
W-B/Scranton	18	11	7	0	0	48	40	22
Hershey	18	7	10	1	0	44	53	15
Norfolk	17	7	10	0	0	48	58	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	18	12	2	2	2	51	32	28
Lake Erie	19	10	7	1	1	60	57	22
Rochester	16	9	6	1	0	58	48	19
Toronto	18	9	8	0	1	58	52	19
Hamilton	16	6	8	1	1	34	52	14

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	17	10	5	1	1	62	53	22
Chicago	17	8	6	2	1	49	54	19
Rockford	19	9	9	0	1	60	62	19
Milwaukee	18	8	8	1	1	51	56	18
Peoria	18	6	9	2	1	43	66	15

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Charlotte	19	12	5	0	2	67	52	26
Oklahoma City	18	11	5	1	1	62	53	24
Houston	18	9	6	1	2	61	55	21
Texas	17	8	7	1	1	42	51	18
San Antonio	17	4	10	0	3	39	55	11

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.

Wednesday's results
St. John's at Adirondack
San Antonio at Rochester
Hershey at Norfolk
Rockford at Chicago

Tuesday's result
Texas 5 Rockford 4

Thursday, Nov. 29
All Times Eastern
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30
Springfield at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Bridgeport at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
St. John's at Albany, 7 p.m.
Texas at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Syracuse at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	214	265

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

WEEK 13

Thursday's game
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.

GOLF

PGA

WORLD RANKING

Through November 26

1. Rory McIlroy	13.61
2. Luke Donald	9.28
3. Tiger Woods	8.89
4. Justin Rose	6.66
5. Adam Scott	6.50
6. Lee Westwood	6.39
7. Louis Oosthuizen	6.35
8. Jason Dufner	5.74
9. Webb Simpson	5.61
10. Brandt Snedeker	5.56
11. Bubba Watson	5.39
12. Ian Poulter	5.13
13. Phil Mickelson	5.13
14. Steve Stricker	4.98
15. Keegan Bradley	4.90
16. Nick Watney	4.86
17. Peter Hanson	4.81
18. Matt Kuchar	4.79
19. Dustin Johnson	4.73
20. Ernie Els	4.64
21. Sergio Garcia	4.58
22. Zach Johnson	4.57
23. Bo Van Pelt	4.38
24. Graeme McDowell	4.30
25. Hunter Mahan	4.10
26. Jim Furyk	3.90
27. Paul Lawrie	3.77
28. Charl Schwartzel	3.72
29. Francesco Molinari	3.59
30. Rickie Fowler	3.55

LPGA TOUR

MONEY LEADERS

Through November 26

	Trn	Money
1. Inbee Park	24	$2,287,080
2. Na Yeon Choi	23	$1,981,834
3. Stacy Lewis	26	$1,872,409
4. Yani Tseng	24	$1,430,159
5. Ai Miyazato	23	$1,334,977
6. So Yeon Ryu	24	$1,282,673
7. Jiyai Shin	18	$1,234,597
8. Azahara Munoz	26	$1,230,751
9. Suzann Pettersen	24	$1,182,860
10. Shanshan Feng	19	$1,101,147
11. Mika Miyazato	20	$1,098,749
12. Karrie Webb	20	$884,973
13. Amy Yang	22	$844,305
14. Cristie Kerr	23	$837,314
15. Paula Creamer	23	$815,574
16. Angela Stanford	26	$794,294
17. Sun Young Yoo	23	$781,587
18. Catriona Matthew	20	$714,272
19. Anna Nordqvist	27	$688,703
20. Chella Choi	27	$634,622
21. Lexi Thompson	23	$611,021
22. Hee Kyung Seo	25	$600,403
23. Brittany Lincicome	24	$581,631
24. Brittany Lang	25	$575,263
25. Sandra Gal	26	$574,323
26. I.K. Kim	21	$561,302
27. Karine Icher	24	$541,532
28. Candie Kung	25	$485,963
29. Haeji Kang	24	$456,425
30. Jenny Shin	25	$447,731

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you know a secret about a friend, you are strongly advised to keep it to yourself. Don't embarrass them by letting other people in on information they don't need to be aware of. You have secrets too!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You won't find it hard to win people round to your way of thinking. With your ruler, Venus, linked nicely to energy planet Mars others want to believe every word you say. Whether or not it's true is another matter.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Forget about your chores and responsibilities and do something strictly for fun. This is not a day to push yourself hard. This is a day to take things easy. Time spent in the company of friends will not be time wasted.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Today should be a fun day for you, followed by a fabulous Friday and a stunning Saturday. Romance is under good stars right now, so let a special person know just how much you think of them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will find it easier than usual to deal with family issues today, so make a point of trying to resolve disagreements with loved ones. It must not be all one-way traffic. It's not about blame, it's about helping each other.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Relaxation and affection are the keywords today. That applies not only to your dealings with loved ones but also to those you work with. Your laid back attitude will draw people to you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Listen to what others tell you and act on their advice. You may wonder why they are so eager to help you but the planets indicate there is no need to be suspicious. They just want to see you do well.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
Cosmic changes over the next few days will bring challenges of a serious nature, but that does not mean you can't have fun as well. Today's Venus-Mars link will bring out your playful side — and maybe your romantic side too.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let money worries get in the way of taking a personal relationship to a new level. You don't have to spend a fortune to have fun with the object of your affection, just do things together that you both enjoy.

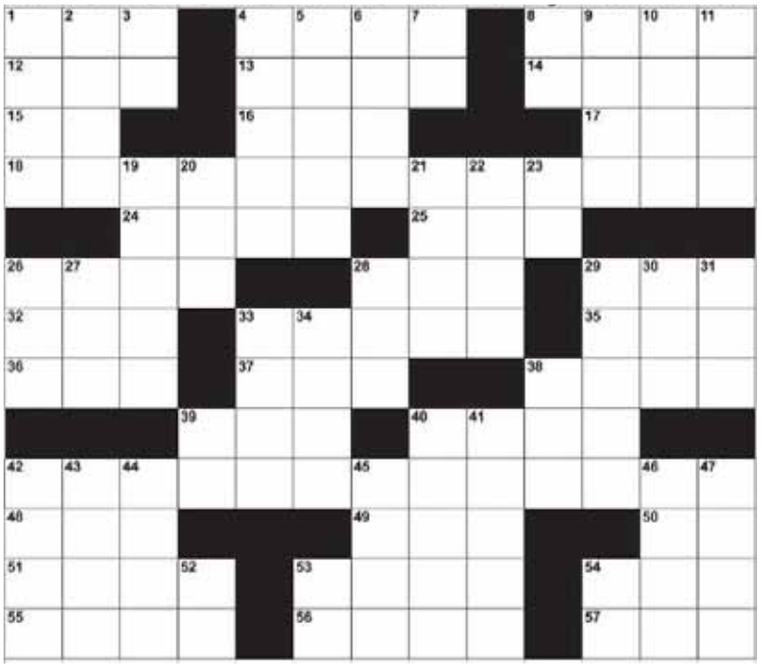
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make sure you get out and about, and interact with wide a range of people today. The more you are on the move, the more likely it is you will meet someone with whom you can make beautiful music.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Watch out for opportunities to boost your reputation today. Venus in the career area of your chart, linked to go-getting Mars, will open doors to you that may have been closed before. Or maybe you never knew they existed!

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Your sparkling personality will draw people to you like moths to a flame today. Wherever you go, others will want to be your friend, and you'll have more than enough warmth to go around. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

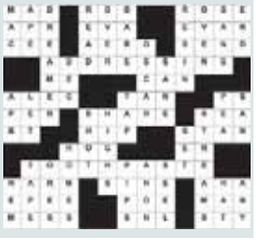
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Pot cover
4. Heard on Perry Mason
8. Wing reach
12. Electrified particle
13. Inspired
14. Tedious office job
15. Movie alien
16. Cheers was one
17. Orange Pekoe or Earl Grey
18. Buffy the — — (2 words)
24. First class (2 words)
25. Carol Burnett tugged this
26. Bundle
28. Barn layer
29. Precious jewel
32. Food scrap
33. Easel board
35. — Speedwagon
36. Mornings (abbr.)
37. Exclamations of contentment
38. He played the Skipper on Gilligan's Island
39. Scrape out a living
40. Slime
42. Set a programme to music
48. Sales agent (abbr.)
49. Hard knock
50. Egyptian Sun God
51. Extremely dry
53. Found in an atlas
54. " — Cup"
55. Greet
56. Pochard
57. Wheel of Fortune purchase

Down
1. Actor Schreiber
2. Small amount
3. He starred in "The Pink Panther" movies (init.)
4. Log home
5. Alert
6. Withered
7. Asner or Norton
8. Nora on Brothers & Sisters (init.)
9. Feel sorry for
10. Aweather
11. Close by
19. Soda fountain treats
20. "The Raven" poet
21. As — on TV
22. Acreage
23. State where Evening Shade was set (abbr.)
26. Fancy scarf
27. Upper limb
28. This Hour — 22 Minutes
29. Diagram
30. Slippery fish
31. One of The Three Stooges
33. Japanese wine
34. Only Cosby son the The Cosby Show
38. Jump
39. Hospital waiting room (abbr.)
40. Green or purple fruit
41. Slip up
42. Study hard for a test
43. — Come the Brides
44. Early Ron Howard role
45. Metric weight
46. Moran of Happy Days
47. Giant powerful dog: Great —
52. The star of The Apprentice (init.)
53. Form of address
54. British thanks

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			3	2			5	7
4	3			5	9			1
	4				3		9	
	1	2				6	7	
	5		8				1	
9			1	6			4	2
1	8			3	5			

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	7	6	3	2	4	9	8
4	6	9	1	8	5	2	7	3
2	8	3	9	7	4	1	6	5
8	4	2	3	1	6	9	5	7
1	7	5	2	9	8	6	3	4
3	9	6	5	4	7	8	1	2
7	2	1	8	5	9	3	4	6
6	3	4	7	2	1	5	8	9
9	5	8	4	6	3	7	2	1

Today
5°/-1°
Variable

Friday
2°/1°
Rain and snow
70%

Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
Check your local listings for details.
The Weather Network HD

TWN incorporates MSC data

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HWY: **5.2**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA

GET UP TO

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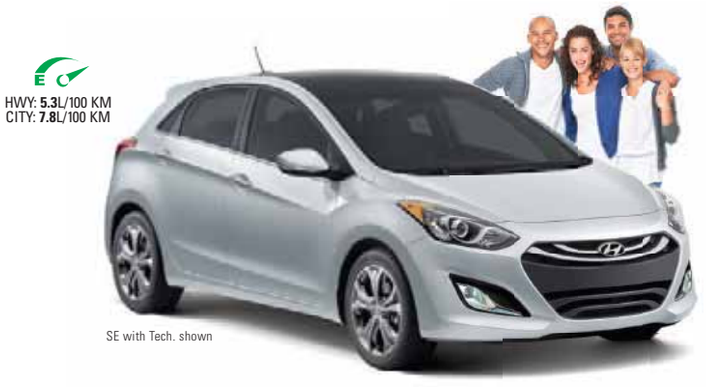
FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$15,480♦**

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR



HWY: **5.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.8**L/100 KM

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT

GET UP TO

$1,850 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$18,930♦**

ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(OVER $21K)

HWY: **5.6**L/100 KM
CITY: **8.7**L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO

$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$22,200♦**

SONATA GL AUTO.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

★★★★★
AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING*
U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

HWY: **6.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.1**L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE **$27,245♦**

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV
(OVER $35K)

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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